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THE TIMES

Graham Greene, by
V. S. Pritchett:
Saturday Review, p6

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Lower import prices help to cut rate of inflation

Rate of inflation is now down to 9.5 per cent. The improvement is expected to continue for months. Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary for Industry and Consumer Protection, said last night the increase in the retail price index had remained in single figures throughout the year and into 1979. He said food prices rose by less than seven per cent last year, the lowest for five years.

Smallest rise in food cost for five years

Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary for Industry and Consumer Protection, said last night the increase in the retail price index had remained in single figures throughout the year and into 1979. He said food prices rose by less than seven per cent last year, the lowest for five years. The inflation rate came down to 9.5 per cent in January, 1979, after a rise of 10.5 per cent in December. This was the first time since 1974 that the rate of inflation has fallen below 10 per cent. Mr Hattersley said the fall was due to a combination of factors, including a drop in the price of food, which rose by only 6.8 per cent last year. He said the government was pleased with the result, as it showed that the economy was becoming more stable. He added that the government was committed to keeping inflation low, and would continue to monitor the situation closely.

Maudling's exemplary claim can go ahead

Conservative MP, Mr Maudling, has been awarded a £10,000 exemplary damages claim. The claim was made by Maudling's family, who said that he had been killed in a car accident while on duty. The claim was made against the local authority, which was responsible for the road where the accident took place. The court has ruled in favour of the claim, and the damages will be paid to Maudling's family. This is the first time that a claim of this kind has been successful.

House prices up by 1.4% in February

Halifax house price index shows that house prices rose by 1.4 per cent in February. This was the first time since January that house prices have risen. The index was compiled from data on 17,000 house sales in the south-east of England. The increase was due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the price of new houses and a fall in the price of second-hand houses.

Ar plant bomb

Construction workers were killed when a powerful bomb exploded at a power plant in Bilbao. The bomb was planted by a group of Basque nationalists. The explosion killed three workers and injured several others. The plant was a major source of electricity for the region.

Atom to Tokyo

Japan has agreed to buy a British nuclear power plant. The plant will be built in Japan and will be used to generate electricity. The agreement was reached after several years of negotiations between the two countries.

UK aid will finance six ships for India

Britain has completed arrangements to build six cargo ships for India. The ships will be financed by UK aid. The Indian government has agreed to buy the ships, which will be used to transport goods between India and other countries.

French second ballot

France is going to the polls tomorrow to decide the fate of 423 constituencies. In last Sunday's first round 63 seats were won outright. Both left and right will be relying on their supporters' discipline.

Woman MP fined

Mrs Audrey Wise, a Labour MP, was fined £20 for using a mobile phone while driving. She was caught by police on a road near London. She had been talking on the phone for several minutes while driving.

Cheap Atlantic fares

The British and American Governments have reached agreement on cheaper Atlantic air fares. The agreement will take effect from today and will extend to 13 other American cities. This will make it easier for British tourists to visit the United States.

Refugees among the dead as Israelis pound Lebanon

From Robert Fisk
Qaqaier el Jisr, March 17

Israeli aircraft had been hovering and waiting above us, high and unseen in the glare of the sun, for almost five minutes before the first great explosion blossomed among the houses just across the valley.

A Palestinian boy in a combat jacket and carrying a rifle—I guessed he was about 14 years old—had been standing grinning next to us among a cluster of houses, wondering perhaps whether it was our village or the house to the east that would attract the wasteful attention of the Israeli pilots.

You could see the rows of houses over the small valley and the mosque looking in the sun, and we were looking right at it when the sound of power-

diving grew into a rising whine like the noise of a kettle coming to the boil.

Then the village was bathed in orange fire that rippled across the streets in less than five seconds. Two towers of black smoke had already begun to build their way above the hills when the blast came rumbling over to Qaqaier el Jisr. It shook the road and the walls and rattled the iron window gratings of our house until they banged against the glass.

The boy kept on grinning, almost laughing, as the village over the valley went on erupting. He shrugged his shoulders when we asked its name; all he knew was that the Israeli front line was just over the hill to our right. Yes, he said, the valley was in Palestinian hands.

An old woman came up to

us in the middle of the air strike and begged for money to pay her way by service taxi to Beirut. You could not help understanding her fear when the bright skies were alive with the sound of fighter aircraft; but maybe she would have been less enthusiastic about leaving if she had seen what we had seen on the old highway between Sidon and Tyre just an hour before.

We had passed thousands of refugees on our way south from Beirut this morning, all of them driving northwards in lorries, farm carts, taxis and old buses to get away from the sound of gunfire and the fear of air strikes.

Some travelled 16 to a jeep or 12 in a car, their bedding piled on top. They had that vacant, bored stare that used to distinguish the Beirut refugees during the civil war—the negative expression of people who had abandoned all they owned and had no plans for the future.

We had just reached a dusty coastal village called Adloun when we found Palestinian gunmen standing all over the road, shouting and gesticulating frantically at drivers who did not slow down.

We knew that some kind of massacre had occurred when we saw the doctor in a blood-stained white coat standing in front of an old ambulance with his arms outstretched in despair in front of a small crowd.

Behind him were two smashed, fire-blackened cars, riddled with bullets and cur open by rocket fire. From the first of these, Palestinians were tugging corpses out of

the doors; eight bodies in all, peasants from the south.

The women and children were identifiable by the bright flowered orange traditional dress they wore, but their faces were unrecognizable. One had been beheaded.

A throng of women stood crying and wailing—a sign of respect for the dead as well as grief in the Arab world—next to a stretcher in which a small child had been laid in two separate pieces.

You cannot dwell on the details of such a terrible scene—unless perhaps you are compiling a medical report or writing fiction—but the lorry loads of refugees trying to drive past, slowed down to a crawl and the adults among them could be seen forcing

Continued on page 5, col 4

Black tide fouls beach in Brittany

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 17

An oil slick 18 miles long swept ashore along the coast of Brittany near Pornic tonight from the grounded and broken super tanker Amoco Cadiz. It threatened disaster.

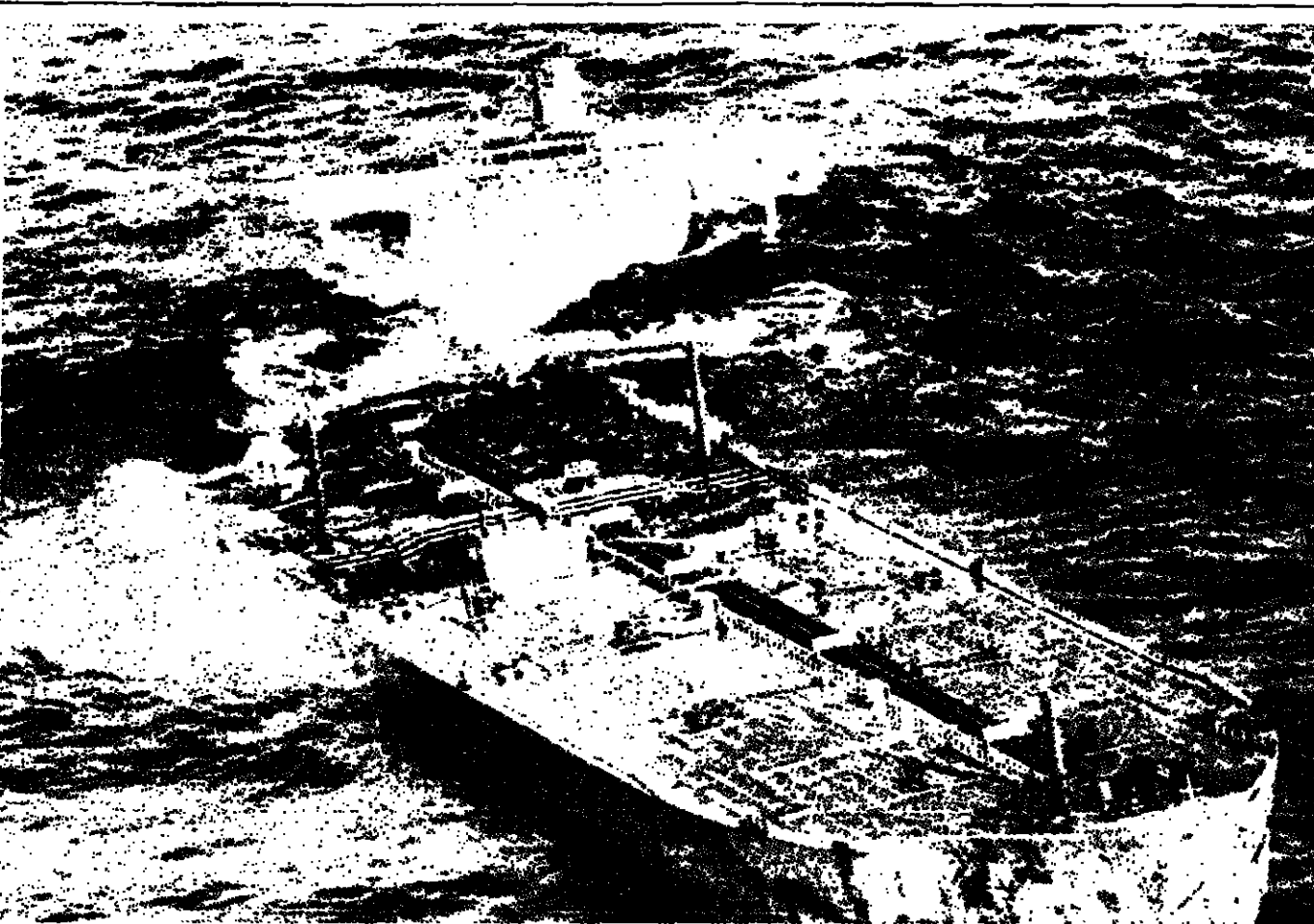
The tanker carried 230,000 tons of fuel oil. M Michel d'Ornano, Environment Minister, said tonight that a specialist team would attempt to pump the remaining oil out of the ship.

Vice-Admiral Coulandres, the maritime prefect of Brest, had earlier introduced the new Polmar plan to try to protect the coast and fish from the huge pollution threat, but a black tide of oil was beginning to sweep in on miles of beaches this afternoon.

The shipwreck occurred one day short of the eleventh anniversary of the Torrey Canyon disaster but the Amoco Cadiz is carrying seven times more oil than was involved then. The wreck is also much closer to the shore than was the Torrey Canyon.

Trouble began for the Amoco Cadiz yesterday afternoon with rudder problems. The West German tug Pacific sailed from Brest to pick her up off Ushant but a tow had hardly been put on board when they ran into a Force 10 gale. The tow broke three times and the high seas and wind dragged the 109,700-ton tanker towards the rocks.

Around midnight the tanker went aground on the rocks of Pornic and a hole opened in one of the 15 cargo tanks. It was only shortly before the tanker



The supertanker Amoco Cadiz, broken in two in a storm off the Brittany coast.

hit the rocks that it was decided to implement the Polmar plan. Bad weather and the slow start meant that oil was oozing out of the hole in the ship's side before remedial measures were ready.

Naval helicopters were called in to evacuate the multinational crew and about 6 am today they were all off. Three hours later

the grinding seas broke the ship in two just at the level of the rear superstructure.

The oil had affected five miles of the shoreline by noon and a thick oily smell was carried ashore over the fishing village.

The storm died during the day and fine weather is now forecast. This has allowed the

Navy to send out seven ships to try to break up the oil with chalk and detergents. Work has started on barges to try to prevent the fishing banks and oyster beds.

The Amoco Cadiz, which is registered in Monrovia, was built in Cadiz in 1973. She was the flagship of the Amoco Transport company, which is the

carrier for Amoco Phillips Petroleum.

Our Guernsey Correspondent writes: Oil pollution teams have been put on the alert in the Channel Islands, following the breaking up of the Amoco Cadiz. Guernsey is maintaining contact with the Royal Navy at Plymouth.

Threat to South Coast, page 2

Man arrested in Rome as hunt for Moro kidnappers continues

Rome, March 17—Italian police tonight said they had arrested a man suspected of having taken part in yesterday's kidnapping of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister.

They identified him as Gianfranco Moreno, aged 32, and said he had been charged with kidnapping and multiple homicide and taken to Regina Coeli prison, in Rome.

Despite a new threat that Signor Moro, who is chairman of the Christian Democratic Party, would be killed if 15 alleged Red Brigades terrorists are not released by 11 am tomorrow, the Government appeared to be standing firm against giving way to blackmail.

The approach was supported by most political parties and Signor Moro's wife also publicly stated that she opposed any idea of surrendering.

The judicial authorities in Turin said the trial of the 15 alleged terrorist leaders will go ahead as planned on Monday, although there was concern that jurors might stay away following threats which have already frightened off 150 potential jurors.

Among several anonymous telephone calls to the press today was one claiming that members of the West German Baader-Meinhof terrorist movement took part in the kidnapping.

ping. The caller, who gave tomorrow's 11 am deadline for Signor Moro's murder, threatened to kidnap another prominent figure and to "liquidate" others.

Speaking to the office of the Italian news agency, Ansa, in Turin, the caller said: "We telephoned yesterday morning at 11 am. We gave you 48 hours to reply. Today, the first 24 hours are ending."

"If we do not have a reply during the day about the release of our comrades, we shall carry out what we said yesterday. We shall do away with Moro. We shall give a damn. We have already done away with five and we can kill another."

"We can take someone else. Do your worst. We can carry out as many violent actions as we want. You have seen. Five people didn't frighten us, and we could just as easily liquidate 50."

The Christian Democratic Party published a statement today expressing support for the Moro family and their view that intimidation must be rejected.

Armed police searched thousands of Rome homes today for the kidnappers, breaking in doors when no one answered doorbells. Security officials said 6,000 police in Rome

searched an estimated 3,000 homes.

Meanwhile the Christian Democratic Party's official magazine, *La Discussione*, said a foreign power may be at work against Italian democracy.

It is not risk to believe that something even more terrible is hiding behind the Red Brigades; that there are the means, efficiency and goals of the secret service of a power that wants to lead Italy to an Argentine-type situation," it said.

A number of leading Christian Democrats have dropped cautious references over the years about foreign agents being behind Italian terrorism. They have never said what foreign power they had in mind—Agence France-Presse and UPI.

Our Bonn Correspondent writes: Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today offered the Italian Government every support in the search for Signor Moro, but there was no confirmation here that West German terrorists were involved.

Herr Klaus Belling, the Government spokesman, told journalists that the West German authorities had no knowledge of links between the Italian Red Brigades and the Baader-Meinhof group.

50-year-old parallel, page 4

Teachers may meet employers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The teachers may resume pay negotiations on Monday after a proposal from the employers yesterday of a revised offer. But sanctions are likely to continue at least until the teachers have heard the offer.

In a statement last night the management panel of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body for teachers' pay, said it had told the teachers "that it would be prepared to resume negotiations at a joint Burnham Committee meeting on the basis of a revised offer."

There is a firm assurance from the teachers that the resumed negotiations would be intended to lead to an agreement.

An earlier draft, demanding that the teachers should suspend their sanctions before negotiations were resumed, was abandoned by the management panel, which includes representatives of the Department of Education and Science and the local authority associations, after it became clear that the teachers would not agree to such a condition.

Replying to the employers' offer, Mr Fred Jarvis, a general secretary of the National Union of Teachers and leader of the Burnham teachers' panel, said the teachers had been prepared all along to resume negotiations if the employers were ready to make a more realistic offer.

He said the teachers' panel would be prepared to meet the employers on Monday afternoon "if the basis of the meeting was that both sides were to negotiate freely with the intention of trying to reach an agreement." The teachers' panel would meet on Monday morning to review the position.

The difference in the wording of the two statements is important. The teachers do not like the implication they see in the employers' statement that whatever offer was made at the resumed negotiations must be accepted by the teachers. Hence Mr Jarvis's insistence on "free" negotiations.

If the National Union of Teachers believes after Monday's meeting that the offer is one that should be considered seriously it may decide to call a meeting of the union executive to decide whether to call off the sanctions.

Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and

Wholesalers' staff end ban that disrupted papers

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Wholesalers' staff last night ended the overtime ban that severely disrupted the distribution of national newspapers.

About 2,500,000 copies were not distributed in parts of London and surrounding areas yesterday and more than a million copies were lost on Wednesday and Thursday.

The dispute, involving a thousand drivers and other wholesale workers, was over a claim for improved overtime payments in addition to a pay offer.

The Federation of London and Allied Trades.

Wholesale Newspaper Distributors said last night that the total package did not exceed the Government's 10 per cent.

Under the settlement overtime payments will be improved. The new package was not distributed in parts of London and surrounding areas yesterday and more than a million copies were lost on Wednesday and Thursday.

The deal was agreed at talks yesterday with the workers' union, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades.

The case for investing in the Save & Prosper Property Fund

With the prospect of improved economic activity in 1979, and the continued fall in interest rates, it is our belief that the outlook for property investment is promising. In particular, recent months have already seen an increase in the level of rents paid in several areas of the property market, notably shops and industrial buildings. This increase should be of particular benefit to the Save & Prosper Property Fund given that, of its 58 properties, 14 have rent reviews during 1979, and a further 25 have reviews over the following two years.

Furthermore we continue to believe that the area most likely to benefit from the expected increase in economic activity is shop property, where the demand for prime space is likely to be strong. The Save & Prosper Property Fund is now 43% invested in quality shop properties and can therefore be expected to benefit from this situation.

In the property market generally, demand is for prime properties of which the supply is limited. As our Property Fund has concentrated on properties of this type, we believe that it is particularly well placed to benefit from current market conditions.

Further information
For full details of the Save & Prosper Property Fund please consult your professional adviser, contact one of our branches throughout Britain or complete and return the coupon below.

To: Customer Services Dept., Save & Prosper Group, 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Tel: 01-564 8889. Please send details of the Save & Prosper Property Fund. I am interested in lump-sum investment ☐ regular investment with life insurance ☐

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SAVE & PROSPER GROUP

Clocks forward

British summer time begins at 2 am Greenwich Mean Time tomorrow. Clocks should be put forward one hour. Summer time will end on October 29.

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HOME NEWS

MP found guilty over Grunwick incident

Mrs Audrey Wise, Labour MP for Croydon, South-west, who said she went to the aid of a girl being dragged by the hair by the police during the Grunwick picketing, was found guilty by magistrates at Acton, London, yesterday of obstructing a policeman and fined £20 with £25 costs.

After the hearing the police said that Miss Yana Minoff, daughter of Mr Don Minoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, would be reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions for her alleged involvement in the incident, outside the Grunwick film processing plant in north London. Miss Minoff had earlier told the magistrates that she was the girl involved.

Mrs Wise, who had denied obstructing a policeman, said afterwards: "I am very disappointed about the decision of the court. I do not know yet whether I shall appeal."

"I am very grateful to Miss Minoff for giving evidence. She was telling the truth, and I shall give evidence on her behalf if she wants me to."

Miss Minoff had told the court that she had been helped by Mrs Wise when she was held by a policeman. She added: "He began getting hold of my hair and I heard people objecting. He started pulling me and then swung me round by it. It was very painful."

Miss Minoff continued: "I remember people around me. At that stage, the policeman let me go. I watched Audrey Wise being arrested and taken to the police bus. A lot of my hair fell out for the rest of the week, because I was being thrown around by my hair."

Mrs Wise told the court she would not have gone to the plant if she had expected any such involvement. She did not approve of violence," she said.

She said that after making a speech she started to make her way back to the Underground station to return to the Commons when she noticed a policeman pulling a young woman by her hair.

"I felt indignant and thought I should go over there," she said. "She was being pulled backwards and then forwards and swung round by her hair. I went to try and draw the attention of the policeman. I said 'stop, let her go'."

"I couldn't get any response. I automatically took hold of the arm that was pulling her hair. There was a sudden movement. The policeman's arm came around my shoulder and I was grasped. He said: 'You'll do, love'."

Mr Sidney Wise, husband of Mrs Wise, said that he was also at the incident and believed the policeman used unreasonable force.

Mr Gareth Cowling, for the prosecution, told the court that on Thursday last, Sergeant David Vollier took hold of a girl Mrs Wise appeared and started shouting at him. After the MP was told to go away she grabbed Sergeant Vollier's arm and the officer was caught between Mrs Wise and the girl, who got away.

'Gay News' blasphemy appeal is rejected

By Annabel Ferriman

The Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the convictions for blasphemous libel of *Gay News*, a newspaper read by homosexuals, and of Mr Denis Lemon, its editor, but Mr Lemon's nine-month suspended sentence was quashed.

The newspaper and its editor were convicted last July in a private prosecution brought by Mrs Mary Whitehouse after it had printed a poem about Christ. The poem, by Professor James Kirkup, who is now thought to be living in Japan, was described by Mrs Whitehouse as the "recrucifixion of Christ by twentieth-century weapons."

The judgment comes shortly after an attempt by Lord Willes to repeal the blasphemy law by a Bill in the House of Lords.

Lord Justice Roskill, sitting with Lord Justice Eveleigh and Mr Justice Stocker, upheld the fines of £1,000 on *Gay News* and £500 on Mr Lemon, but quashed Mr Lemon's suspended sentence on the ground that it was the first case of its kind for 56 years, and was therefore in some sense a test case.

He said that the costs of Mrs Whitehouse and Mr Lemon would be paid for out of public funds, but those of *Gay News* could not. The total costs of the appeal are estimated at £15,000.

Mrs Whitehouse said after the case that she was glad that the jury's verdict had been upheld because they represented the people.

She knew when she read the poem that it would not be able to live with herself again unless she did everything she

could to get the publishers prosecuted. She was happy that Mr Lemon's custodial sentence had been quashed because she had not wanted a severe sentence.

Mrs Whitehouse said she realized that more people had read the poem because of her prosecution, but thought that that might have had a salutary effect.

There had been a lobby saying there was nothing wrong with it, so it might have been hard for people not having read the poem to understand the court action. But once they had read it they would have realized what was going on in the country and how far things had gone.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights made it clear that there were three areas in which freedom should not be given: class, race or religion. Although there was passionate concern among many people about class and race, we do not see the same anxiety that people should not be given offence by virtue of their religion.

Mr Lemon said after the hearing that he was disappointed that the appeal had not been successful but he was relieved that he no longer had a prison sentence hanging over his head.

The conviction might make him slightly more cautious in certain areas, but he was hoping to appeal to the House of Lords against it.

He was advised by his lawyers that he had a good chance of success.

Law Report, page 24

Support for immigrants from Prime Minister

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

The Prime Minister told the Asian Society of Wales last night that the Government would not give way to "corrosive and destructive fear" that could affect the stability and harmony of the immigrant community in Britain.

Mr Callaghan, who was attending a dinner of the society in Cardiff, told the guests that they were setting an inspiring example of how people from many different backgrounds could settle in a new environment, retaining their own culture while making a full and valued contribution to the life of their adopted country.

That, he said, had not always been an easy experience, and he doubted whether there were many among them who had not encountered difficulties from time to time.

"The Government should close their eyes to these difficulties. I for one certainly do not. But it is our task to work for stability and harmony in our society in which you can raise your families without anxiety and without fear."

Fear was corrosive and destructive. "We must not give way to it, nor must we encourage it. We can cast out fear with knowledge and understanding," he added.

He said that Britain would support any application by Pakistan to rejoin the Commonwealth.



Mr Horace Cutler (right) and Mr John Silk in studying work on the Thames flood barrier at Woolwich.

Bid to speed Thames flood barrier

By a Staff Reporter

The Greater London Council will attempt to restore the completion of the Thames barrier to its original target date of 1980, Mr Horace Cutler, leader of the council, said yesterday.

He was determined that last time should be made up. The £230m project, at Silver-

town, Woolwich Reach, has been dogged by labour and technical difficulties and the completion date was rescheduled for 1982 or 1983.

During a tour of the barrier site yesterday with Mr Cutler and Mr John Silk, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, pointed out that London had come perilously close to serious flooding in January during a big surge tide, and that an effective barrier was essential.

Mr Cutler said that more than a million people who lived or worked in risk areas would be affected if the Thames over-

flowed its banks. A review of the work on the barrier had been ordered and engineers were confident that the project could be speeded up by two years if navigational difficulties were overcome.

Mr Silk, who is responsible for the protection of London from flooding, said it was an important question whether new techniques or a new approach could help to speed ready to play its part in any steps that could usefully be taken. The Government was taken to provide the capital with flood protection at the earliest date.

Hume appeal in Ulster for peace

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, called last night for the principles of non-violence to be applied in Northern Ireland. He was preaching at Westminster Cathedral at a service to launch 30 days of prayer for Ulster at the cathedral and at Westminster Abbey.

Appealing for peace, he said: "As a first step, ought we not to go beyond denunciations of violence to explore the possibility of realistic application of the principles of non-violence?"

Those principles included the refusal of complicity with any faction using violence; active reconciliation in streets and homes; and constructive attempts to remove causes of injustice and despair.

"The initiatives taken at present by the few could become the accepted policy of the many," he said. He looked forward to the day when all communities might enter into a "Thursday cease-fire" of non-violence and an agreement to work in partnership to build a just society in Northern Ireland.

People in Britain found it all too easy to dissociate themselves from what was going on in the province.

Labour urged to unite for election

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

All the elements of the Labour Party, from the social democratic Manifesto Group to the far-left Tribune group and the Young Socialists, must unite to put their combined strength into Labour's general election battle, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said at Bristol last night.

Mr Benn, who is MP for Bristol, South East, was speaking at a rally organized by the Tribune group and the Young Socialists, which he referred to as the efforts of the whole Labour movement, including the unions. Mr Benn had a special word for the part that would be played by the left of the party, "which makes up so many of the active members in the constituencies."

He would be trumping the suggestion, linking the door, organising, operating, meetings and working their hearts out to see that Labour support was at its maximum at the general election, whenever it came.

He said the Labour Party was made up of many diverse elements, drawing strength from different traditions. That was its strength.

"In addition there have always been millions of people who, though they are not themselves members of the party, have recognized the relevance of socialist policies to meet their own needs and aspirations."

Mr Benn said the party stood for the rights of the individual, equality and democracy. "Only the Labour Party is strong enough to fend off the forces of hatred and mutual suspicion upon which the present Opposition seeks to build its support. Mr Steel replies: The accusation by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, that the Liberals have been irresponsible and cankerous in their opposition to the main proposals of the Government's Bill to reorganize the electricity industry was re-

jected last night by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader.

Speaking at Maidstone, Mr Steel said: "I am the least tankard of men, as you know. Mr Benn, on the other hand, is the most obstinate and doctrinaire."

Mr Benn had promised to publish with the abbreviated Bill a White Paper that would show up the "irresponsibility" of the Liberals. Mr Steel said he would be watching that most carefully to see whether it recorded all the ridiculous proposals put forward by the Government to the firm refusal of their three-month strike.

The details of the formula have yet to be worked out, but the local authority employers, the National Association of Fire Officers, and the Fire Brigades Union reached agreement yesterday on the main principles to be put to Mr Marilyn Rees, the Home Secretary, for his sanction.

Rises payable later under the agreement will depend on the movement in firemen's pay from November 1 next. The Government has promised to exempt the future rises from whatever restrictions in pay bargaining may then exist.

There has been some friction between the national association and the union over the fire officers' refusal to accept the pay offer until the formula guaranteeing their differentials over firemen's rates had been agreed. That seems to have been settled with yesterday's agreement.

Civil servants' protest: A protest about "prevarication" in handling a pay claim for nearly 100,000 executive grade civil servants will be made on Monday to Lord Peart, Lord Privy Seal.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants called an executive meeting on pay yesterday in the expectation that it would have an offer to consider. The offer, which

will be identical for all 500,000 non-industrial civil servants, is expected to be 9.5 per cent plus a half per cent on their increases.

Mr Gerry Gilman, general secretary, said: "The Government has prevaricated for six weeks over our claim and has refused to negotiate at all on it. The executive is disgusted. The union claimed rises of 22 to 28 per cent."

The Civil Service Department said last night that an offer would be made soon.

Nurses' demand: Nurses and midwives are seeking compensation for being unable to negotiate a productivity deal in their present pay talks. They are seeking a big rise and have submitted a 12-point plan to improve their fringe benefits.

Mr Nicholas Grant, an official of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which represents 90,000 nurses, said the prospect of nurses negotiating productivity agreements was "macabre".

He added: "You cannot speed up treating sick people. Even if you could it would be unethical if we were compensation."

The 420,000 nurses and midwives are due for an increase on April 1.

Local government anger: Motions submitted for the annual conference in June of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) express anger about the pay of public servants compared with workers in the private sector.

The union's national executive will submit a motion reaffirming NALGO's opposition to public spending cuts. It calls for a review of the tax system. Brent branch, in London, will urge inflation-proof pay through cost-of-living indexing, as well as a £50-a-week minimum wage.

Fire officers get 10% rise and hope of pay formula

By Our Labour Staff

The final postscript to the fire brigades' strike was written yesterday when fire station officers accepted a wage offer consistent with the Government's paymaster guidelines.

The officers will get rises of a tenth backdated to last November and ministerial approval is being sought for a formula giving them further increases later this year and next, in line with the settlement conceded to the firm refusal of their three-month strike.

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Asian boy to have own Scout groups

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Asian Scout groups to be established in the belief that necessary to preserve religious and cultural integration remain in place, the Scout Association said yesterday.

The experiment, which developed scouting among communities in Slough shire, has the support of the Home Office and the Commission for Racial Equality. The decision comes after a month study of the needs of boys aged 8-11 in Slough, which was carried out by Mrs Phyllis Patten, school of sociology, University.

Asked what would be an English boy wanted an Asian Scout group, Mr J. C. the Scout Association, relations officer, said: "There would be no bar, but it would be basically Muslim and Sikh and practising those religions. The groups would be based in the area of the school. The decision comes after a month study of the needs of boys aged 8-11 in Slough, which was carried out by Mrs Phyllis Patten, school of sociology, University.

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Tanker spillage threat to South Coast beaches

By Craig Seton

The South Coast of Britain faces one of its biggest pollution threats since the Torrey Canyon disaster as a result of the grounding of the super-tanker Amoco Cadiz off Brittany. Those responsible for pollution defences were called to full alert yesterday in readiness for oil reaching British waters.

The slick caused by the spillage of a quarter of the super-tanker's 220,000-ton oil load could be carried well into the English Channel by tides now running northwards, and eventually on to coastlines from Hampshire eastwards, the Department of Trade said.

The French authorities had not yet requested help from Britain, but one vessel called Calshot, loaded with chemical

dispersants, had been ordered from Southampton to Plymouth to stand by. Other vessels carrying dispersants had also been put on full alert.

A spokesman said that although the Amoco Cadiz accident had happened 100 miles from the nearest British coastline, the threat remained that it could carry oil on to British beaches within a week.

Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary of State for shipping and aviation, said yesterday, which was International Maritime Day, that an emergency Department of Trade headquarters had been set up.

He said: "The coast from Cornwall to Sussex is in danger and all the major resorts could be threatened."

Editor's apology over TV remarks

Mr Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer*, apologized publicly for remarks made in the Granada Television programme, *What the Papers Say*, about articles by Mr Ronald Butt and Mr Anthony Shrimley.

Mr Treford had commented on articles by Mr Butt in *The Times* and Mr Shrimley in *The Sun* on the political controversy over immigration.

Presenting this week's programme, Mr Brian Inglis said that it had been pointed out that comments made by Mr Treford in last week's programme could be taken as an imputation against Mr Shrimley's and Mr Butt's professional integrity.

He added: "Donald Treford has asked me to say that he regrets any such imputation, which was not intended, and wishes to apologize to Mr Shrimley and Mr Butt. Granada Television, as it transmitted the programme, also wishes to apologize to Mr Treford's statements."

Journalist is banned from interview

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

A journalist, alleged to be a "strike breaker", was turned away yesterday from the London office of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Miss Mabel Maisei, a freelance, had arrived for an interview with Miss Jenny Baker, the association's new information retrieval officer.

Miss Maisei, a member of the non-NUC Institute of Journalists, was turned away by Miss Patricia Murray, the association's assistant press and publicity officer. Miss Murray said later: "She was turned away because, as a National Union of Journalists member and a trade unionist, I refused to work with someone who had been a strike breaker."

Miss Maisei had continued working during the recent strike at Westminster Press in Darlington over a closed shop demand. The London office also became involved in the dispute. Miss Maisei said last night that she was not a strike breaker. "As an IOJ member I was not involved."

Mr Anthony Wilkinson, the association's administrator, said the association would support any journalist who exercised his or her rights. The incident was "a personal thing," he added.

The NUJ said last night that Miss Murray was refusing to aid people who undermined the strike. "We fully support her."

Anger over Young Socialist role during pupils' revolt

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

Birmingham Education Committee is to protest to the Prime Minister about the activities of Young Socialist members during demonstrations by schoolchildren against the teachers' sanctions. Leaflets have been handed out at schools in the Northfield area of Birmingham, and a recruiting meeting has been called for next Tuesday.

Some of the leaflets say that questions should be directed to the Labour Party's national youth officer, Mr Andrew (Andy) Bevan. The local Labour Party said it would suspend any members who tried to use the dispute to involve children in so-called "pupil power" politics.

In the past month the Young Socialists have been conducting a drive to get pupils to join the National Union of School Students.

In the West Midlands yesterday more schoolchildren were punished for their part in disturbances. In Walsall 18 boys aged between 15 and 16 were given three strokes of the tawse, a strap whose use has caused controversy in schools for many years.

Not connected: Mr Bevan said later that the campaign was not connected with the teachers' dispute (the Press Association reports). He said the leaflets called for abolition of school uniforms, corporal punishment and fee-paying schools, an end to racial discrimination and to discrimination against women, and a guaranteed job for school-leavers.

Mr Kenneth Masters, headmaster of a comprehensive school at Kirkby, Merseyside, yesterday accused the Socialist Workers Party of exploiting impressionable young children by using pamphlets and loud-speakers to whip up a "strike".

Teacher-employer talks

Continued from page 1

Science, welcomed the initiative of the management panel to resume negotiations.

She has given guidance to the local authority associations on how far the Government would be prepared to go on the teachers' pay offer. It is understood that the present offer of 9 per cent on teachers' basic salaries does leave some room for manoeuvre and that something a little above 9 per cent, but less than 10 per cent, could be offered within the Government's pay guidelines.

Steps are also continuing to try to settle the teachers' pay dispute by arbitration. Professor Laurence Hunter, of Glasgow University, has been appointed by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) as chairman of a panel that is to investigate the dispute and make recommendations.

The award recommended by the panel will be submitted

5pc power price increases from April 1

By Roger Vielvoe

Increases in the price of electricity for householders ranging from 4 per cent in Wales and the Midlands to 7½ per cent in the North-west were announced yesterday after successful applications for higher basic tariffs by the supply boards that cover England and Wales.

On a national basis the increases average 5 per cent, and they will come into operation from April 1. Most consumers will pay the new charges in bills received after July 1.

An application by the boards for a further 2 per cent increase through the fuel cost adjustment mechanism is to be considered by the Price Commission.

Most boards have pegged the price of their off-peak electricity and in two areas there have been reductions. However, those off-peak rates are still subject to the fuel cost adjustment that should take effect on all meter readings after April 1.

Details of the regional percentage increases in domestic off-peak and commercial and industrial rates:

London: 6.9, no change; 6.1; South East: 6.9, no change; 5.1; East Midlands: 6.9, no change; 5.0 to 7.5; Midlands: 4.9, no change; 5.0 to 7.5; 4.9; Merseyside and North West: 7.5, 6 per cent reduction; 5.1; North East: 6.9, no change; 5.0 to 7.5; 4.9; Yorkshire: 6.9, no change; 5.1; Eastern: 4.9, no change; 5.0 to 7.5; 4.9.

Ruling next week on cash from LSD conspiracy

Mr Justice Park is to decide at Bristol Crown Court on Wednesday whether three ring-leaders in the LSD conspiracy case should forfeit about £450,000 the police traced to foreign banks during the Operation Julie inquiries.

Counsel on behalf of the three said at the court yesterday that the money, mainly held in Swiss bank accounts, was the proceeds of the sales of LSD. However, they maintained that a British court has no right to make forfeiture orders as the money is outside its jurisdiction.

After hearing legal arguments all day, Mr Justice Park said he wanted time to consider matters and reserved his judgment.

£50,000 explosion

A chemical explosion caused £50,000 of damage at the Celbex factory in Loxley, Sheffield, yesterday. No one was hurt.

Remarks reported on March 13 concerning "guerrilla warfare" mounted by the director of the Victoria and Albert Museum against the Department of Education and Science were made by Mr John Latta, chairman of National Heritage, and Mr Patrick Boylan, director of Leicester Museums.

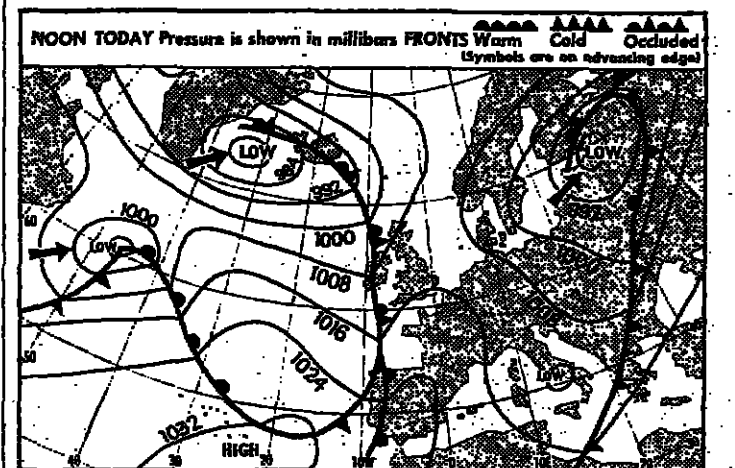
Vosper studies

Vosper Thorpe Government-owned company, was won yesterday over made on Southern. Thursday night also threatened once company.

MP to sue mini

Mr John Kymer, for Birch, and Mr W. Parliamentary Secy Privy Council Off respectarian member RSPCA general c libel.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Tomorrow
Sun rises: 6.9 am	Sun rises: 7.7 am
Sun sets: 6.10 pm	Sun sets: 7.11 pm
Moon sets: 2.43 am	Moon sets: 11.55 am
Full Moon: March 24	
Lighting up: 6.40 pm to 6.37 am	Lighting up: 7.41 pm to 6.34 am
High water: London Bridge, 8.19 am, 5.0m (18.5ft); 8.49 am, 5.6m (18.5ft); 12.38 am, 5.9m (19.3ft); 1.24 pm, 9.2m (30.3ft); Dover, 5.43 am, 5.0m (16.4ft); 6.29 pm, 5.0m (16.4ft); Hull, 12.41 am, 5.4m (17.6ft); 12.41 pm, 5.3m (17.4ft); Liverpool, 5.43 am, 6.9m (22.6ft); 6.30 pm, 5.2m (22.6ft).	High water: London Bridge, 10.38 am, 5.6m (18.4ft); 11.12 am, 5.6m (18.4ft); Avonmouth, 3.10 am, 5.3m (17.4ft); 3.57 pm, 9.5m (31.3ft); Dover, 8.5 am, 5.0m (16.4ft); 8.1m (16.9ft); Hull, 2.42 am, 5.3m (17.4ft); 3.9 pm, 5.4m (17.7ft); Liverpool, 8.10 am, 7.0m (22.6ft); 8.53 pm, 7.1m (23.4ft).

Sea passages: Strait of Dover: 6 am, 7°C (45°F); 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); 7 am, 7°C (45°F); 7 pm, 7°C (45°F); 8 am, 7°C (45°F); 8 pm, 7°C (45°F); 9 am, 7°C (45°F); 9 pm, 7°C (45°F); 10 am, 7°C (45°F); 10 pm, 7°C (45°F); 11 am, 7°C (45°F); 11 pm, 7°C (45°F); 12 am, 7°C (45°F); 12 pm, 7°C (45°F); 1 pm, 7°C (45°F); 1 pm, 7°C (45°F); 2 pm, 7°C (45°F); 2 pm, 7°C (45°F); 3 pm, 7°C (45°F); 3 pm, 7°C (45°F); 4 pm, 7°C (45°F); 4 pm, 7°C (45°F); 5 pm, 7°C (45°F); 5 pm, 7°C (45°F); 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); 7 pm, 7°C (45°F); 7 pm, 7°C (45°F); 8 pm, 7°C (45°F); 8 pm, 7°C (45°F); 9 pm, 7°C (45°F); 9 pm, 7°C (45°F); 10 pm, 7°C (45°F); 10 pm, 7°C (45°F); 11 pm, 7°C (45°F); 11 pm, 7°C (45°F); 12 am, 7°C (45°F); 12 pm, 7°C (45°F); 1 pm, 7°C (45°F); 1 pm, 7°C (45°F); 2 pm, 7°C (45°F); 2 pm, 7°C (45°F); 3 pm, 7°C (45°F); 3 pm, 7°C (45°F); 4 pm, 7°C (45°F); 4 pm, 7°C (45°F); 5 pm, 7°C (45°F); 5 pm, 7°C (45°F); 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); 7 pm, 7°C (45°F); 7 pm, 7°C (45°F); 8 pm, 7°C (45°F); 8 pm, 7°C (45°F); 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Japan mobilizes police

Peter Hazelhurst
Japan, March 17

Japan mobilized 15,000 police to guard the new Narita international airport, 60 miles east of Tokyo, which is to be opened on March 30, under the threat of subversive demonstrations and bands of armed riot police to converge on the gleaming 1,500-ft complex, ready as farmers and radical groups threatened to sabotage the international flights derived from the crowded old Haneda west mouth.

The farmers and the students, estimated to number 30,000, have stalled for seven years the opening of the new airport, which was completed at an original cost of \$360 million in 1971.

As the cost of maintaining the huge unused white elephant mounted to \$50,000 a day today this year, Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, announced that the airport will open by the end of March.

In seven years of bitter clashes, four policemen and one demonstrator have died and many others were injured as the Government tried more than 10

3 opponents of Zaire leader executed

Kinshasa, March 17.—Firing squads executed 13 opponents of President Mobutu at dawn today after he refused to apply "qualities of mercy and magnanimity".

The President announced the executions and warned foreign powers not to meddle in Zaire's internal affairs.

The executions were carried out only a day after a mass court-martial sentenced 19 defendants to death for plotting against the security of the state.

Of the 19, five were sentenced to death for their absence and one, a former NCO, had her sentence commuted to life imprisonment.

President Mobutu said in a radio and television address today he was obliged to act harshly.

In Brussels, Mr. Henri Monnet, the Foreign Minister, said Belgium would demand an explanation for the killings.

The Government received the news with surprise and consternation, he said. "We are obviously worried about a turn of events which could have terrible consequences," he said.

[illegible]

to open the airport. Today Narita airport seemed to be preparing for a long siege rather than the opening ceremony.

Stranded wire has been thrown at fuel tanks and other key targets. Riot police patrol the perimeter. More police guard the rail shipments of aviation fuel and oil from Misawa.

Seaside train drivers have been sent to transport the fuel tankers and the Government has pressed senior managers to service as drivers.

Monday an oil train col-

Prom Michael Knipe
Metulsh, March 17

The town of Marjayoun five miles south of Beirut, in the southern Lebanon was bustling with assorted military and civilian activity today when the first heavy artillery shells landed.

Jubilant young Christian militia men waving their rifles were running through the muddy streets in a variety of Israeli provided tanks and armoured vehicles on their way to join Israeli forces as they searched the deserted surrounding villages for the remnants of the Palestinian forces.

As our carload of journalists, escorted by an Israeli officer, entered a bend a shell exploded nearby. We stopped but before we had time either to investigate or flee, another explosion caused us to flop quickly to the ground or shelter by a wall and then scurry into the nearest house.

The Alshab family—a mother and several of her eight children—were typically hospitable. The youngest present, a dimly a baby born two months ago across the border at an Israeli clinic, was troubled and crying. Her mother's hand was on her head and the flustered visitor cringed nervously, an older daughter continued making coffee with a marked lack of concern.

Mr. Foud, aged 22, explained in halting English that what we were experiencing was nothing compared to

Jakarta, March 17.—Scores of students have been injured and many others arrested during clashes with troops throughout Java this week.

In Surabaya, East Java, 12 students were injured on Wednesday. In the West Java district of Majalengka, hundreds of students took to the streets for three consecutive days when Indonesia's National Congress voted to elect a new President and Vice-President.

The students carried posters and plastered walls of government offices and shops with anti-government slogans.

ted with a truckload of homemade petrol bombs which fortunately did not explode. The police are not taking any more. Helicopters and armored vehicles will escort oil tankers and police will also be employed along the track. Japanese police will patrol the highway to the airport. As students today threatened to start traffic, patrol cars were sent along the route. Japan's prime minister Aomori was also in the area, visiting today. Employing three armed patrol vehicles to guard the oil tanks and facilities at ports is hardly

Moscow, March 17.—The record space flight by the Salut 6 cosmonauts has convinced Soviet scientists that man can live and work in outer space for more than a year, Tass reported today.

They based their conclusion on the preliminary results of the 36-day mission by Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri. Romanenko and Mr Georgy Grechko which ended yesterday.

Professor Anatoly Yegorov, head of the medical team at ground control, said that the

...including a shower, visits by other cosmonauts and an unmanned supply flight, all also helped to ease the psychological stress on the crew.—*Editor.*

Special Report

has been drawn to our attention that in the Special Report Cyprus (March 12) an article David Shirreff on the Turkish-occupied State of Cyprus appeared to emphasize the negative aspects of the economy. The latter part of the article, which is cut for reasons of space, stated that the Cypriot TFRS economy lacked confidence, its revival was ensured.

The British and American governments today paved the way for cheaper air fares on scheduled services and charter flights across the Atlantic.

After two weeks of negotiations here between British and American officials, President Carter said he was pleased to announce agreements which would make possible a wide range of low fares. He described them as a big step forward in "implementing our key objective in international aviation—to provide the travelling public with a wide range of low fares on scheduled flights".

The agreement, which came after a final late-night bargaining session, takes effect from Monday, Jan. 1. Airways had already announced that it wants to introduce new cut-rate and standby fares from tomorrow and other carriers are expected to follow suit.

The agreement means that standby, budget and advance purchase fares, which were previously available only in New York, to London route, will now apply to 13 other cities in the United States. They are Anchorage in Alaska, Atlanta,

General Omar Torrijos, the Panamanian leader, is refraining from commenting on the outcome until the second treaty is finalized. In an exchange of letters with Washington, he has shown that he worries about several last-minute modifications to the Neutrality Treaty documents.

These define American rights to continue to defend the neutrality of the canal beyond the end of the century.

He fears that a clause written into the Senate's resolution of ratification, which would permit the use of American military force if the canal is closed for any reason, constitutes unwarranted interference.

Mr Carter has tried to reassure him with the response: "We have made every effort to be and been successful to date."

In ensuring that modifications to the treaty will consist only with the general purpose of our two countries as parties to the treaty.

The second treaty covers the transfer of control of their strategic waterway to Panama over the next 22 years.

Senate ratification, which will be approved is based on the knowledge that two or

Yesterday's vote had been widely seen as a critical test of Mr Carter's political astuteness in dealing with the Senate at home and abroad. He and his colleagues had mounted a huge personal lobbying campaign to persuade about a dozen undecided senators to support the new treaty.

Many of these members of the Upper House have already said that they will not necessarily vote in favour.

Nevertheless, after taking the political risk of supporting one half of the treaty yesterday, however unpopular this stance might have been with their constituents, there would seem little point in previously uncommitted senators reversing their stance.

A recent *Panorama* television programme quickened interest in the assassination of President Kennedy by suggesting that his murderer, Le Harvey Oswald, was used by the Mafia or perhaps the CIA. For three weeks *The Sunday Times* has published extracts from an important new book by Edward Jay Epstein, indicating strongly that Oswald was an agent of the Russian KGB. Tomorrow Mr Epstein discusses the issues raised by *Panorama* and other questions such as the mysterious

and London at the beginning of the month. The inaugural flight was postponed when the British Government announced that it suggested. The American authorities then threatened to retaliate against the British Caledonian airline.

The Anglo-American agreement will almost certainly encourage other European airlines to follow suit by cutting air fares drastically during the coming weeks. British officials, who have always been extremely cautious about a fare-cutting spree, are not sure how profitable new cheap air fares will be to the airlines.

Limited experience to date has shown that while the number of passengers on the New York to London route has risen by 15 per cent since low fares were first introduced last autumn, revenue has risen by a mere 3 per cent.

The new arrangements will be reviewed by the British and American governments this autumn and modifications may be introduced if airlines discover they are incurring heavy losses.

Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent, writes: British Airways confirmed in London last night that it would start selling standby fares to destinations in the United States outside New York and (Saturday).

Branniff said its first service would arrive at Gatwick tomorrow. After that it could operate a daily return service with a standby face of £195.

Saturday Review

Graham Greene into the light

by V S Pritchett

Where is Graham Greene now and what is he up to? We've been asking these questions for years. The most accomplished of English novelists has been making only fitful visits to London in the past 10 years and, anyway, in the manner of the old-fashioned spies, he is a man of disappearances in mysterious company, usually simply his own, and with a special taste for long air flights. The last I had heard of him was that he had turned up with Brigadier General Omar Torrijos at the recent Panamanian Conference in Washington—strange for one who has never been a conference man. Was it some lark, some personal affection or whim that drew him there? He flew back, of course, by Concorde—how many novelists get there?—and he skipped off to Belfast not exactly a pleasure dome now, for a cold whiff of fear—but he might as well have been in Asunción drinking with his Honorary Consul, or in Cuba, Haiti, Hawaii, Saigon, the Congo, his house in Anacapri, or with the Third Man in Vienna or the Lawless Roads of Mexico at the time of the persecution of the Church.

Reporters get about like this: English novelists very rarely. If he does settle for a month or two, he will be elated in a flat in Paris or Antibes, and that is where I caught him. On the telephone the flat, conspiratorial, laughing voice which, of itself, makes him the best company I've known in the past 40 years, welcomed me as usual with quotation. He'd just found the right words in Conrad for his state of mind. He had done no work for weeks—he was waiting for his new novel, *The Human Factor*, to appear—and felt the leaden weight of an irremediable idleness. Writers love words: the word "irremediable" spoken with his curious near-French "r" and its overtones of glee in being beyond hope, was Greene in vintage condition. He is a quarter Scotish: Robert Louis Stevenson was his mother's cousin and the Balfours were close to his family; he has a D.Litt from Edinburgh if he has also one from Cambridge and is a Companion of Honour. For a writer, only the Order of Merit could be better.

Still, he is a Londoner through and through. I see him as one of those tall, long-legged Englishmen, wearing the dark grey suits of club members and a look of misleading anonymity common to members of the professional class, coming out of White's, the Reform or the Athenaeum. They are the natives of that state-within-a-state which lies between Pall Mall, St James's and Albany—where he used to live—and which extends to the rather more bohemian neighbourhood of Covent Garden. On the way there, he dropped into Rude's Restaurant, you might see him lunching with his brother, Sir Hugh Greene.

The only difference between Greene's London appearance and his Antibes look was that he was wearing a discreetly modish casual brown suit, something between a track suit or battle dress, fastening with a drawstring cord at the neck. When we met, we swore we had not changed at all over the years and boasted about our ages and good health, as old codgers in their servitudes do. We had reached the decade when every birthday had better strike a note of farce, especially in my case. I am four years older than he.

One day, years ago in his rooms at King's College, Cambridge, E. M. Forster said to me: "My furniture rather let me down when the television people came." Greene said much the same: "I'm in that ugly block near the Marina." I must say I had imagined that the novelist who had lived in Albany would be living now in one of those fine and rosy old houses on the ramparts of old Antibes looking down at the sea and the gardens where the sly old men of the town play boules all day. It was strange to find him in this huge modern block, flaunting his bombastic concrete balconies. The old harbour used to come right up to the walls when I took the place. It was very nice until they built this monstrous basin for the luxury yachts and cruise ships. We used to be quiet. In the winter of the year, the flashy boats and ships are packed into the Marina by the scores. Marina—what a word! In the season, the fumes and noise of boat engines, and of the barbecues and noisy parties, must be hellish. Graham later said he leaves when it gets bad.

The flats are spacious and

functional, exactly the place for a man living and working a good deal alone. The sitting room where he worked is as simple as an office. Close to the large ceiling-to-floor window was a small table with nothing on it but a toy woolly animal—a squirrel or rabbit, perhaps—two or three folders, a lamp and nothing else. "Doesn't it tire your eyes working straight into the light, and the blinding white paint of the walls?"

"You get used to it," he said. "What tires my eyes is continuously looking at my characters."

On the pale, dun-coloured walls of the room are a few pictures of the bleak and sensitive kind, one abstract exploding with colour and a droil print of Leonardo making his ascent in a balloon in 1789. On the other two walls there are, I would say, 2,000 books on the white shelves, in very orderly rows, many complete editions. He has several thousands more in his flat in Paris. (He keeps his poetry there; he can quote large chunks of Clough, Browning and Hardy. Greene is not only a writer and a reader, he used to be a director of The Bodley Head, and knows his titles, dates and first editions. He is more interested in the trade of literature than most authors are and is something of a collector of bookshelves. As for example, "collected" a long line of the famous little red Nelson's Sevenpenny hardbacks we used to buy about 1910 and feels as sentimental about them as I do. He is very proud of a vintage notebook attack on his Haitian novel and himself, which the Haitian government sent out to all their ambassadors, in a large splashy volume.)

Very important for him, when he was a boy, were books of adventure and romantic travel. Our generation were brought up on Ballantyne's *Coral Island*, Sherlock Holmes, John Buchan's *Greenmantle* and Rider Haggard's *She and King Solomon's Mines*. The books that really started Greene writing were the once famous *Viper of Milan* by Marjorie Bowen, a tale of Italian intrigue. Intrigue got him and it still does. The English novel is rich in excellent minor writers: the wicked Saki and a favourite book of Evelyn Waugh's, F. Anson's *Vice Versa*. When he asks, "minor writers" call these "minor works"? We all remember these writers, but Greene remembers them with passion. He is on to Wells's middle period now: "very satisfying."

The only object I missed from Greene's earlier collecting days at the bottom of St James's was the schoolboyish collection of miniature whiskeys and brandies carefully set out on a shelf—perhaps they went down the throat of that villainous police officer when "our man in Havana" played bottle chess with him. But Graham did bring out a bottle of 100-proof gin which we both looked at with awe and did not, thank God, open.

The son of a headmaster, Graham has a background as literary as that other traveller, Kipling, whom he does not much care for, except as a poet. The man familiar with whiskey, priests and the brothels of the tropical shantytowns and wilderness has filled his loneliness with good health, as old codgers in their servitudes do. We had reached the decade when every birthday had better strike a note of farce, especially in my case. I am four years older than he.

One day, years ago in his rooms at King's College, Cambridge, E. M. Forster said to me: "My furniture rather let me down when the television people came." Greene said much the same: "I'm in that ugly block near the Marina." I must say I had imagined that the novelist who had lived in Albany would be living now in one of those fine and rosy old houses on the ramparts of old Antibes looking down at the sea and the gardens where the sly old men of the town play boules all day. It was strange to find him in this huge modern block, flaunting his bombastic concrete balconies. The old harbour used to come right up to the walls when I took the place. It was very nice until they built this monstrous basin for the luxury yachts and cruise ships. We used to be quiet. In the winter of the year, the flashy boats and ships are packed into the Marina by the scores. Marina—what a word! In the season, the fumes and noise of boat engines, and of the barbecues and noisy parties, must be hellish. Graham later said he leaves when it gets bad.

Often in the next three days he got up to pull out a book from his shelves. He likes mooching round the bookshop's market on Thursdays in Antibes, looking for out-of-the-way things. It is one of the rituals for guests to sign their names in the most unlikely of Birthday Books, the Henry James Album—circa 1910—and I was landed with an incomprehensible quotation from James's *The Golden Bowl*. We had to try to clear up that "irremediable" passage of Conrad's: he returned to it several times.

At 73, Graham is thin and

has the shyness of genially subversive men. His grey hair is short and his head bald here and there. If there are deep rings under his eyes, the eyes are blue, red-rimmed, innocent and parrying—the eyes of a fence. The florid gammons on the pale face are now more sculpted, nothing slack there. For the first time I noticed his hands: they are strong and narrow, as capable as a craftsman's, and the fingers are extraordinarily powerful and long. The voice is as it always was: it has grit in it; there is the gleaming sound of a good razor blade on a beard when a barber is at work—a Sweeney Todd, but on holiday. The human nose usually conveys that he is living an independent life of his own: his is neat, pink at the tip and evidently alert for textual error.

He is a man of the fixed habits of one who lives a good deal alone. Breakfast is quickly over, he picks up a pen and starts work soon after 8 a.m., spends the next two or three hours slowly writing his daily 200 words—only 200 now he complains, it used to be 400. "Do you find one gets slower?" Two or three years to finish a book? (I do.) He slips out to a restaurant—his favourite one is closed for January—for the main meal of the day, sometimes with one or two of his French friends. He eats very little. At the other meal, probably he will simply eat a little pâté at home. At this cold time of the year, he drinks Kir rather than pastis and, of course, wine. The meat at Antibes is only so-so, but duck, rabbit and fish are good, especially the *loup de mer* grilled with fennel. He would really prefer a good English chop, and he is rather off garlic nowadays.

One looks out of the window over the Marina and farther away to the open sea and the ramshackle resort strip, with its shantytown-like lots, its high pyramid blocks of flats, to the snow on the mountains beyond. "Do you miss London?" "No. The climate is humid

here but I clear out when the season gets crowded and noisy. I can't bear noise." He once poured a pail of water over a motor cyclist who was revving up outside the flats and was surprised by the language that came back.

"You prefer the foreign political crises to the English ones?" "English parliamentary politics don't interest me, but my new book is set in London. One makes small irritating mistakes. I mentioned buses going down St James's when now they go up. I had to put that right."

"Why do you travel so much?" "To kill boredom." Boredom? The most ingenious, inventive and exciting of our novelists, rich in exactly etched and moving portraits of real human beings and who understands the tragic and comic ironies of love, loyalty and belief—is he really bored? Or is he putting on a defensive mask? I know him as an affectionate and interested man. I think Greene feels the boredom of all writers who live by their imagination. You finish your story, the people vanish, emptiness flows in. He travels to repopulate himself and he has an appetite for experience and especially for out-of-the-way people. For example, he is an astute collector of picturesque priests. In the last two or three years he has been going to the north of Spain with an ascetic cleric whose chief interest is in discovering peculiar vintages of white wine. They have a rollicking time.

I would say the romantic feelings for boys' books has been lasting in that it has made him seek for the grim reality con-

cealed in the dream of adventure.

What is behind his misanthropy in his personal life? An unhappy home, perhaps? Not at all. But, as he says in his autobiography, *A Sort of Life*, he did find he had a double mind when he was a boy. His happy home was in the well-known school where his father was the tolerant and cultivated headmaster, but when the son passed through the baize door that separated the hearts from the school corridors, he felt he was dramatically marked. Was he a Quisling? Or a double agent? He found himself torn between loyalties and therefore often lonely and in despair.

Now, he says, he is probably a manic depressive. Many writers are: the profession is very hard on the nerves; one catches fire at the beginning of the day and burns out by the end of it. The paradox is that he sprang out of a jolly and very intelligent family, indeed a whole clan of congenial successful Greenses, all very close and proud of one another.

"There is often a child in your novels who finds himself exposed to pain or is the witness of corruption—the private detective's son, for example, in *The End of the Affair* or the boy of *The Basement Room*." "I made a point of visiting a private detective's office," he told me years ago. To see for himself is necessary to him.

"I don't really like children. Even when I was a child I could not stand other children's voices." Still, he has written books for children.

And a fine essay of his called *The Lost Childhood* shows childhood was as important to him as it is to most artists. He

quotes from a poem of AE

which goes to his own heart: In ancient shadows and twilight Where childhood has strayed The world's great sorrows were born

And his heroes were made in the lost boyhood of Judas Christ was betrayed.

At Oxford, he joined the Communist Party for a few weeks. There was a serious but farcical sally to Germany which is a pointer to later events. The occupying French were trying to turn the Palestine into a separate Republic in the 1920s, and the oppressed Germans were in revolt. He and Cland Cockburn offered their services to the German Embassy, and the naive youths were scared when they ran into a German intelligence office across the Channel. Sell, foreign journeymen assured. He made an attempt to get a job in China—there is a businessman inside him—dreamed of becoming a consul or joining "the Nigerian Navy". In the end, he fell to the usual dead end of touring, provincial journalism and writing a romantic novel, never finished, on the Curliar wars.

"The result of reading Conrad and Carlyle's *Life of John Sterling*, the best book Carlyle ever wrote," he says loyally.

A far more decisive journey abroad, for a not-at-all-religious young Englishman was his conversion to Roman Catholicism: not from conviction at first, but because he fell in love with a Catholic girl and eventually married her. He was deeply in love and he thought that sharing the same religion with his wife would ensure his happiness. He and his wife went romantically off to a cottage in the country. They had two children.

But the inner and the writer was too restless for the bonds of family life, and after 20 years the marriage broke up. Precisely why—he thinks rightly—is his private business. One can only guess that the need for his private business, Greene's, was the wilderness of his liberty is very strong in him and that his work is his overwhelming passion. Once or twice, he has said, he has half-wished he could have had the dedication of a priest or even to have been a sinner-turned-saint.

But, in his honest way, he now says his conversion was really a sort of gamble with God and the Church. His actual induction into the Church depressed him. He found himself making secret reservations as he made his vows. The theology had his fascination, for he hated Calvinism, as his hero, Lord Stevenson, had done: it was enjoyable for the Protestant to feel now that the English Catholics had been "disloyal" and "traitors" and that, morally, English Protestants put the satisfactions of knowing, slight as from wrong before the Catholic preoccupation with good and evil. Also, one must remember, only 10 per cent of the English population is Catholic—he knows that 10 per cent is a lot—and a large proportion of those are Irish. Lord Stevenson, incidentally, Greene had chosen a minority. This cheered him, and in his early years as a Catholic writer, he was very much the fighting convert. But the lasting result of his conversion can be seen in a poem he wrote to me in 1948—published in a correspondence between his great friend Elizabeth Bowen and myself.

"You remember Tom Paine's apothegm, 'We must take care to guard even our enemies against injustice', and it is there that the writer has great opportunities and greater obligations than the chemist or the estate agent. . . . Now the State is invariably ready to confuse, like a schoolmaster, justice with the corrupter's rule, to act as the devil's advocate, to elicit sympathy and a measure of understanding for those it has wronged. . . . I have been in the interest of the State to poison the psychological walls, to restrict human sympathy, to encourage catcalls—Galleen, Crippen, Fascist, Bolshevik. . . . I would emphasize once again the importance of the virtue of disloyalty. . . . Loyalty confines us to accepted opinions: loyalty forbids us to comprehend sympathetically the distant fellows; but disloyalty encourages us to round the corners of the world, to experimentally through every human mind it gives to the novelist the extra dimension of sympathy."

"You used to strike us as being a very Protestant Catholic, a sort of Jamesian," I said. "No, I wasn't," he said, and

holding his arms above his

added, "In the literature of the Crusades, I am raised above the level I did not know this. We thought Maureen ended you."

"I didn't read him after I had started novels as a Catholic, and then I wasn't thought of as a Catholic novelist," he said. "Brighton Rock?"

"It was very explicit. You couldn't stand it. I was a Catholic, but I was a Catholic novelist." "Yes, I understood it in that book, and I did in *The Heart of the Matter*. My most popular book don't like it any longer. Like many English Catholics, I don't like conventional piety. I'm more of a Catholicism of the countries. I've always found it difficult to believe in Catholicism. I don't call a Catholic atheist. The Catholic I admire is St. Pope."

"A rather privileged, green Catholic in a way." "And Newman of our said. As a writer I have been criticized by the Cardinal Newman of them."

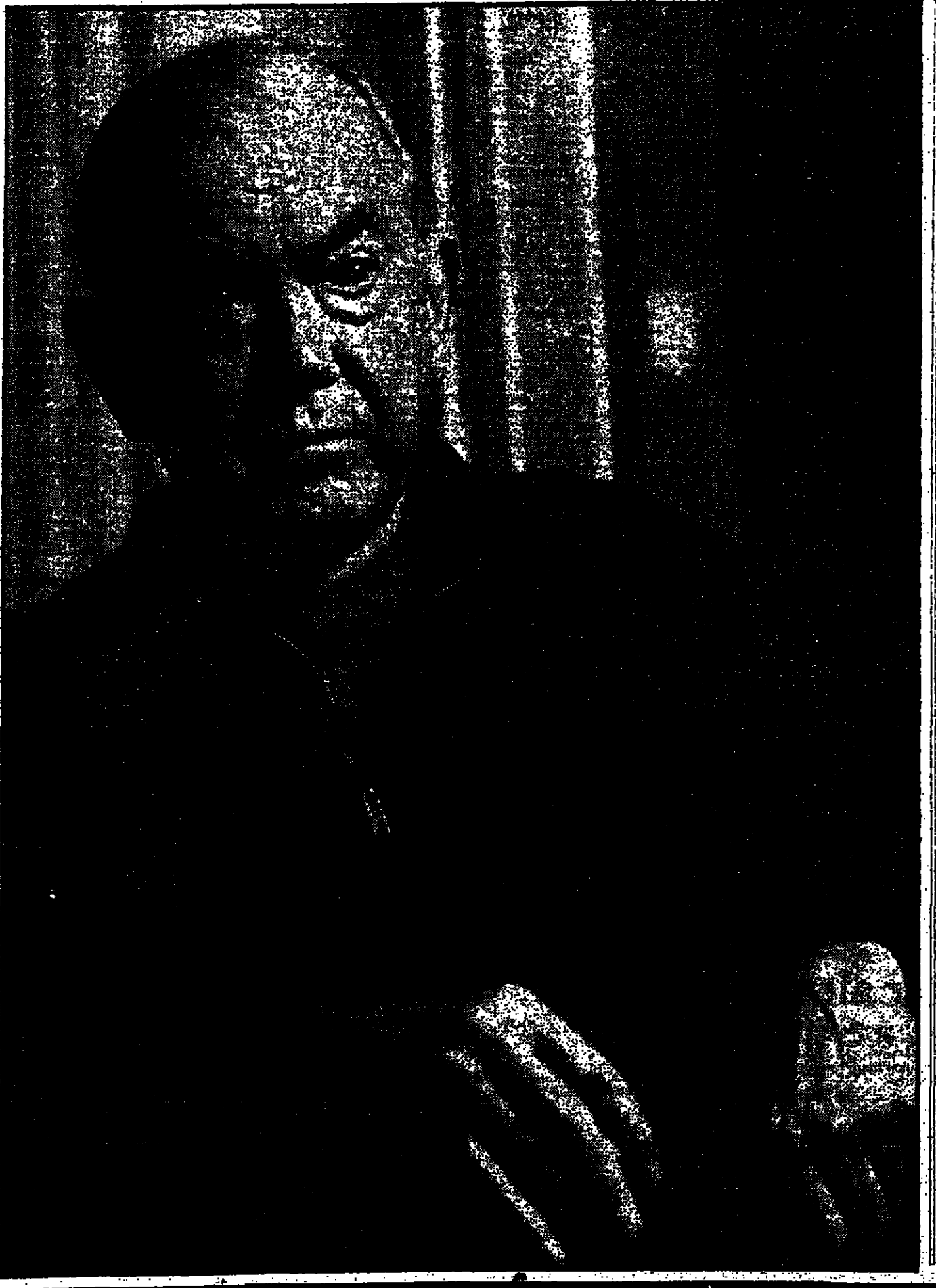
He put his case most fully when he wrote of conversion. Later, when he had converted to the confession and about ourselves: we're half-intend to keep it. Some we make, and failure or the circumstances our private life finally impossible to make a saint of it, and we are ourselves in a state because of lost faith, or conscience?"

"Men and women have felt guilt. They know they have caused, they take, their lies, betrayals," he says. "The Victorians of their satisfaction and dissatisfaction. I try to see the idea of a man and a moralist, not a poet. About violence now."

"I am drawn to it," he says. And reminds of aphorism in *The Violence* can be the of love, indifference as an imperfect form of the other the perfection. But personal frightened of violence. physical fear in *Wines* fear plays as strong a guilt in his novels.

We drove off from to have lunch at Venice cold day with the three weather coming on is high. On the way, at a bust of Eugene best seller that my best friend, I was self on a thick bowl of soup (with a spitting spoonful of which brought me back the older soup and The Kir and the on to writing again. "I travel because see the scene," he invent it. (Just like same cloud which Panamanian frontier in order to evoke a sentence.) "I travel has been by accident. I don't write about the place I went to Kenya if the Mau Mau but I a novel about that. I like because I was a liberator. I write Liberia long before I was only when I was the Secret Service. I started *The Matter*. Often dream will start me or a story. It's which you praised by a dream."

He went to a Catholic once when a writer's block and writes down his thoughts. He started him off and has always written of them. "Querry's best priesthood and (Continued on page 7)



John Galsworthy

lark, stole some letters sticking out of the letter box of a London shop, dashed off to a club to read them hoping to find some sexual revelations, found them dull and then, characteristically, enjoyed the alarm of trying to stuff them back in the letter box unseen.

Tired of fashionable clubs, he joined a short-story club. "It is the only place, in those days, where one could get a bed to sleep in at the afternoon". Also, people had torn pages out of the guro-date *Who's Who*. He liked that. But he is not a roaring bohemian or an exhibitionist. He likes belonging to the opposition, to be the odd one out and to make his own flesh creep.

And to laugh. The world is too complacent. Let us catch it out. And don't run away with the idea that he is a cynic or a mocker or a man in a temper; he is a very gentle, serious, self-controlled, self-estimating artist, and a man of great achievement.

© V. S. Prichard, 1978.

Monday: Sunday dinner. Must book. Meals 1-2 £7. 7.9. Table d'hôte lunch £3. Table d'hôte dinner from £6. Dinner, bed and breakfast £14.

Crianan Hotel, Crianan, Argyll, Scotland. Tel. Crianan 235
Meals 12-2. Bed and breakfast £8.10.22. Closed Sunday and Tuesday. Dinner. Must book dinner. Meals 12-2 (bar), 7.15-10. Table d'hôte dinner £4. Bed and breakfast from £8.

Home Farm Hotel, Wilmington, Wiltshire. Tel. Marlborough 278. Closed Sunday dinner. Must book dinner. Meals 12.30-1.45, 7.30-9. Table d'hôte lunch £3.25. Table d'hôte dinner £4.50. Bed and breakfast from £7.50.

The Old Rectory, Woolverton near Bath, Somerset tel Beckington 415. Closed Sat; Sun & Monday. Dinner 7-9.30. Table d'hôte dinner £6.05. Bed and breakfast from £10.

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runs Stair's antique furniture shop in Mount Street, thinks there are two reasons for this. "In the eighteenth century furniture has become expensive and difficult to obtain; and second, that oak furniture seems to fit in with contemporary design. The plain, well-made bracketwork, for example—better than the more sophisticated and mannered Chippendale, Sheraton and Hepplewhite styles.

Among the simplest pieces of oak furniture it is possible to buy is a joint stool. Mr. Holder has a number ranging in price from £725 to £800. "They make good occasional tables," she explained. When buying a joint stool, you should check: "plain, well-made bracketwork, the top been replaced? Have any stretchers been replaced? "A lot around aren't right", she said. Stair's also have in stock an oak hanging food cupboard, with a large wooden door to ventilate the contents (21in wide, 8½in deep, 23in high) at £3875 and a refectory table, c 1600-1620, with a good thick top and bulbous turned legs with a carved capital at the top, at £7,500. "It is worth the price," Mr. Holder pointed out. "Some refectory tables are only £29in. People don't like that, they feel they're rubbing noses across the table."

A few doors away from Stair's, and also in Mount Street, is Barling's, another shop with a fine stock of early oak furniture. Much of it is foreign, but the English pieces include an oak "ark" chest of the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century, a crooked table with folding top and carvings on turned legs, early seventeenth-century, at £5,000; an oak triangular stool on turned legs connected with plain stretchers, mid-seventeenth-century, at £350; and an oak chest of drawers ornamented with bobbin-turned mouldings in elm, late seventeenth-century, at £3,000. Good shops who stock oak around London are Crispin and Albans in Worsfoldshire, Phillips in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, and Stephen Moore of Lewes, Sussex. Mr Moore currently has in stock a seventeenth-century oak chest at £750. As a bonus, his wife sells Georgian jewelry.

Beverly Hillier

You have complete control as to who gets the money. Even if you give to several charities, you don't have to waste time filling in a whole host of tax forms. CAF does it all for you. And they're the professionals.

CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION

Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

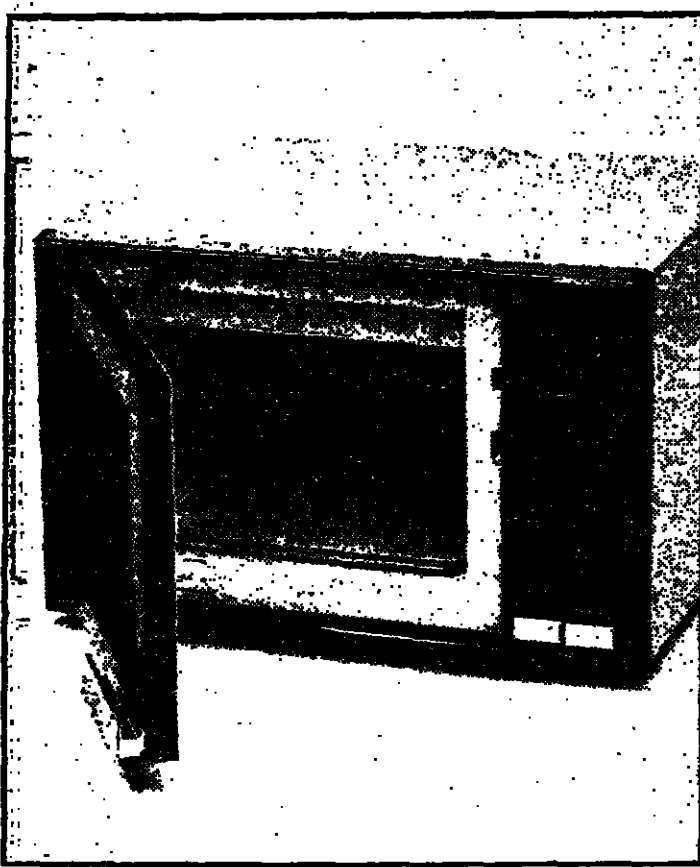
This is definitely going to be cloche year and there is still time to buy and set them up if you remember that we have had frosts right up to the end of May for the past couple of years and the earth remains cold. Even greenhouse owners need cloches to extend the vegetable and flower season and starting now will gain you food from the garden sooner than in-cloche users.

The cloche needs to be in place for at least 10 days before outdoor sowing and planting to warm the bed and it is worth remembering that, even for cold-soil crops, the cloche can protect from too much of either sun or wind. I have seen some experts try out the Westray cloches because the prices are reasonable and they are so tough, so durable and so light. They have plastic sides and ends, and Polythene tops, but they can be used with sheets of glass for those who still prefer it, having been made to suit both schools of thought. The frame is complete with netting, an excellent idea because

birds are such predators of early crops and the netting seems to withstand rabbits. I know one man whose garden is always entirely demolished by rabbits and who has given up vegetables but is now longing to try out the Westray netted cloches so I shall have to wait to report his success or failure. Westray parcels come packed flat but are easy to assemble.

The prices are £8.80 for five for the Tent Cloches; £13.85 for five for the Low Barn or £17.80 for the High Barn type; and £24.75 each for the baby frames. The netting is by mail order. Leaflets will be sent for a large envelope, stamped and self-addressed. The address is Westray Cloches, 15 Church Road, Upper Boddington, Daventry, Northamptonshire NN11 6DL (Byfield 60329).

Although I have not seen them, I like the sound of cloches with sliding panels to give access to plants without being moved. They were introduced by experts last year, they are in the range of Essex Garden Products, Robjones Road, Chelmsford, Essex, and can be bought direct at £6.98 per two-cloche pack (6ft 1in) or £8.95 per three-cloche pack. Add 80p postage.



National Panasonic

It looks as if microwave ovens will be the next domestic appliance to take off, following the pattern of freezers in the early part of the decade. Wholesalers and retailers report sales for the last half of 1977 of double those of the first half, and the first three months of this year look like being double again. For manufacturers, the picture is slightly different since there are now so many more brands to share the market once occupied by two or three firms, then half a dozen, and now a dozen or so.

My own is the National Panasonic, chosen for its compactness, easy operation (but they are all easy), appearance, and general usefulness. Nothing is useful unless it is regularly used, and is easy to fit into our already-overcrowded kitchens. We have prepared a list of makers of microwave ovens together with addresses for any reader who wants to compare this and that; or you can get data from the Electricity Council Press Office, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD (01-834 2333).

The principle is the same for all of them. A radio wave is transmitted into the oven which agitates water or moisture molecules, so causing friction which in turn causes heat within the food itself. Cooking in this way, the oven itself does not get hot. The result is no mess, no oven to clean and no pans since you can use plastic, glass or paper dishes for the cooking process—even wood as long as you do not subject wood to the oven for too long or too often as it will be dried out.

Glass will not crack—not even glass that would when subjected to normal, rapid heating. You can cook many things actually on the plate from which they will be eaten. You can certainly warm up food that way in seconds—no drying, no change of colour, no spilling, and the flavour remains as good so that you can serve one plate of food for the absent diner and warm it later when he or she does come in. You can use any vessel in the oven except those with metal in them—even a gold band will cause sparking so avoid those.

The convenience is terrific, whether for one or for a family. It is not and cannot be the sole cooking appliance but a superb kitchen aid. It does not brown although you can buy browning skills, when preheated (being of special glass or ceramic), will brown the meat or whatever that is put into them.

However, since there is the preheating time to take into account (I use the ordinary electric grill or my cooker to flash the cooked food to brown crispness after cooking in the microwave). A jacket potato will take four or five minutes, no more, and a roast about six or seven minutes per lb if you like it medium rare, although some people will want as long as eight or nine minutes.

Chicken and similar poultry is done in six minutes per lb in my own experience on the china dish. Thin, long joints are best as the penetration of

the rays is under two inches so a four-inch diameter joint would still be pink at heart but not right through. All microwave food goes on cooking for a time after being removed from the oven and stays hot longer until the moisture particles lose their heat.

I have learned, by the reaction of visitors who had no idea how the food was cooked, that the flavour is terrific from the microwave; that nothing has been done to dry it or change it. Just try one jacket potato to test that. Nutritionally, there must be advantages. The colour of fruit and vegetables is also preserved—add a little water to the carrots or greens and take them out in their glowing orange and green condition.

Scrambled eggs now—no, you might not just as well take a saucepan and do those. Just stick a bowl or glass of eggs into the oven and there you are. Allow one to 1½ minutes per egg, mix in a little milk and season to taste, then put into the oven, setting to the appropriate time. After the first minute or so, open the oven (the timer will stop and stay where it is, ready to pick up again when the oven is restarted) and stir the contents well, then replace for the cooking to finish.

No pan to clean—and scrambled eggs can mess up a pan—but creamy eggs ready to serve on the toast. Notice I did not mention butter. You can add butter if you wish but there is no need, which must be a good thing as most of us eat too much. Those who love it can overbutter the toast but microwaved scrambled eggs are creamy without the butter.

I even heat my night-time milk in the mug from which I drink it. Leave enough space at the top of the mug to allow the milk to bubble up, put the mug in and then turn the timer to either 1½ or two minutes (the latter for too hot to drink, the former for very hot). You will be able to take the mug out by the handle and hold it. The dishes are heated only by the heat from the food being conducted into them and not by the microwaves. Convenience again since there is no boiling-over, no pan to wash, just the mug.

If all this convenience and cleanliness, this easy living, seems expensive at anything from around £230, then think again about saving electricity. True, it takes a long time to pay for itself but, allowing some cost for time and labour saving, there is—or can be—some electricity saving. Obviously, it takes more to heat the pan and then the milk on a hob. You are probably using 1,500 to 3,000 watts for a hob or a kettle for about four minutes which is rather more than the 1,200 watts of a microwave for 11 minutes. The sums are better as you roast—a 3lb chicken is said to cost about 1p or 2p and to save 10p or 12p at current prices on cooking in the oven despite adding the time of the grill for final browning. Sauces and gravies—they can heat in literally seconds, according to how much density is put into the oven.

Never overload the oven. Cook a chicken and then the jacket potatoes and then the greens. You will find the

chicken still hot after the vegetables are done without need of the oven to keep it warm but you can do the greens on the hob if you wish since they do not need as long as 20 minutes. Proceed as much as you like, whether it is porridge or meat, and reheat in seconds. I know one family which cooks Sunday night dinner in the morning or on Saturday, goes out all day on Sunday and heats the meal when they return.

My daughter, with teenage children and a new baby due at any moment, works at a small business with her husband. They found that food taken from the freezer in the morning so as to be thawed in time for the evening meal was too often not eaten. The children would receive invitations at school and they would be phoned to say nobody was likely to be home for supper.

So, if nothing is defrosting, they are free to eat out, have a lighter snack, or defrost a smaller portion and so waste nothing. The reason is that their microwave defrosts so fast. Some have microwave ovens defrost programmes which, to heat through evenly, emit waves for 30 seconds, then rest for 30 and so on. If there is no defrost programme, this is a good way to do it.

The "heat" input is constant so cooking is done on timing. Some ovens do add sophistication, like variable input or even a top element for browning which, in my personal view, is against much of the convenience of the microwave oven which, because it does not heat up, needs no cleaning. Instead, defrost, heat into it, increases the risk of splashes and boiling over. Most ovens have a glass base—potatoes, for instance, can be cooked straight on this without any other container.

Another advantage in some homes could be the oven's mobility and it is often kept on a trolley. All it needs is the ordinary 13-amp socket and so it can be used to cook at the table. While operation is fool-proof—one or two buttons or dials at most—it takes a little time to get used to the cooking so as to maximize the oven's real usefulness. It is useful for single-person or multi-person households.

It will not roast your potatoes, and it will not make a good job of pastry. You will still want the grill for sausages and chops, the oven for keeping warm and so on. But you will save a good deal of electricity, a desirable object quite apart from saving money, and you will find life that much easier.

You can use it as a servant or forget it if you want to work on your cooking skills. It is not an essential except, perhaps, where space is at a premium or where little large-scale cooking is done. Families who feed their freezers and depend on the last-minute thawing of frozen bread, will welcome it as I know from the experiences of many. My own oven, the National Panasonic, is childishly simple and, by the way, children can use them safely because of the absence of heat that burns. It measures by 12 inches and needs little space and fits well into my life of unpredictable hours but numerous visitors. I find it as useful as my busy, family-bound daughter finds hers. It needs only a 13 amp plug. It can be used anywhere.

Mine costs about £240 unless you find a discounted one. There are rather fewer of those about than of other electrical appliances as yet although it must come if these ovens become as popular as the microwave. Here is not a recipe book but a thorough explanation of what microwave cooking is, with excellent tables of recommended times for all types of food and for a microwave oven. The book is called *Microwave—The Cooking Revolution* and it is as some ovens sound like Harrods and Selfridges; or you can buy it for £5.50 post free from Forbes Publications, Harrods House, Queensway, London W2 4SH (01-229 9322). Even if you do not plan a microwave yet but are just curious, this is well worth buying before you start shopping around for the oven yourself.

Finally, but importantly, do buy the best guidance book on microwave cooking. Some of the recipe and advice books with ovens are produced abroad and the timings and recipes are not really suitable for us in Britain—all will have home-produced books before long, I am assured. The book I recommend wholeheartedly is written by Jimmy Webb, who is head of the Electricity Council's division for performance testing of these, among other appliances, and who has lectured on microwave all over the world. Here is not a recipe book but a thorough explanation of what microwave cooking is, with excellent tables of recommended times for all types of food and for a microwave oven. The book is called *Microwave—The Cooking Revolution* and it is as some ovens sound like Harrods and Selfridges; or you can buy it for £5.50 post free from Forbes Publications, Harrods House, Queensway, London W2 4SH (01-229 9322). Even if you do not plan a microwave yet but are just curious, this is well worth buying before you start shopping around for the oven yourself.

The kind of furniture that you can see at Designair is not handmade for each customer but it has the highest standards of finish and taste. Designair does not make it—it makes nothing but it gives supervisory service. It acts as exclusive importer and distributor for some lovely furniture with an almost rustic look yet smoothly modern and excellently finished, every piece being designed to show off the live graininess of good woods. There is modern furniture of a more familiar kind too, all so well made that anyone would be proud to have it about the home.

It has been brought together in a collection by Arnold Goorwich, whose long experience in the furnishing business taught him that what the client needs is a service with a capital S. Pieces that arrive, that fit, that are exactly as ordered. Pieces that are right for the job, hand-picked by trained designers or by men and women who know. So, near Sloane Square, Goorwich started Designair and set aside a room and table, a charming but functional working room, for designers and architects to bring their clients as well as for less experienced home shoppers to call for plan-



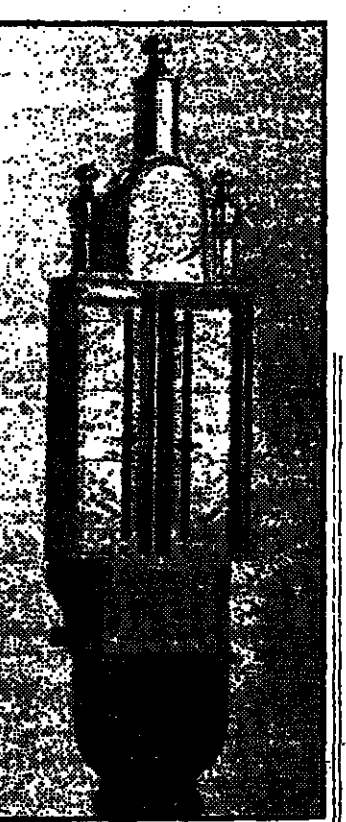
Maxie Lane

Custom-made furniture is for the wealthy but what could be nicer if you can afford it? There are still furniture makers, some of them listed in the booklet of the CoSira covering craftsmen of all types all over England, recently mentioned on this page. Mr Bev Howard is more than a craftsman—he is a skilled cabinet maker and proud of it, a man with smooth taste who makes superbly finished furniture in a timeless, periodless style of the kind Reals, the doyen of modernity, was proud to show before Christmas. A backgammon table was lovely and cost £300 and a corner display cabinet in Indian rosewood with adjustable shelves was another beauty at £539. Mr Howard works from Rotherby House, Singleborough, Bletchley, Bucks (Windsor 2468), pushing forward his six-year-old campaign to promote skill and artistry and, harder still, to make a living by so doing. For Londoners, his work is on show in a new gallery called Innate Harmony, 67 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 (01-722 0686). Worth a visit, the show is on until April 15.

On a different level, but stressing taste with stock and/or speed of delivery, New Dimension has suddenly doubled its size. It is creating 20 shops in shops at large Debenhams stores, bringing the total number of branches up to some 30 shops with more to come. See really good modern furniture at realistic, not cheap, prices all displayed with the right lighting and other accessories of pleasant but homely living. A great deal of their stuff is still packed flat to take home with you and they have worked hard on easy-assemble designs to give robust finished pieces.

Debenhams account cards plus other credit cards will buy anything you want at independent or shop-in-shop branches, and you will like their rugs, cushions and other knick-knacks as much as their wood or cane furniture. Get the address of your nearest branch from the head office at Manor Road, West Ealing, London, W13 (01-999 2900). They are developing a real look of their own, as Habitat did and still does, a rather charming and appealing look, soft but always modern.

For furniture by mail, you would have to go far to beat Hamlet as long as it is plain you want: plain with tradition and modern manufacture combined to give easy cleaning with nostalgic designs. Hamlet has extended its range to buttoned club chairs and is becoming very much a whole house furnishing firm instead of, as it was in the beginning, a kitchen and breakfast room firm. It looks good in antique or modern settings and is certainly well behaved when it comes to needing a rub down



Detail of barometer top.

Garrard is about to introduce an historical piece, a reproduction of a Daniel Quare patent standing barometer. The original was made in about 1700. These latter-day reproductions are entirely hand-crafted, as were the originals, but they sell at £425 each in a limited edition of 150 pieces. The height of the standing body is 40 inches, the body is in walnut finish with finely-chased gilded metalwork.

A good catalogue of thoroughly basic household linens is issued by Limericks, 110 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. It is not offending you the beauties of the glamorous bedrooms so often advertised but it sells the kind of things you rarely find elsewhere since the small drapery stores vanished; serviceable candlewick bedcovers and candlewick by the metre in a good range of colours; sheeting and towelling also by the metre, very useful for odd jobs and rather towels and cot sheets etc; fine white linen, polyester cotton and cotton mixtures in colours and patterns in 70in or 90in widths; and even flame-retardant sheeting, which quite a

few readers have wanted but been unable to find.

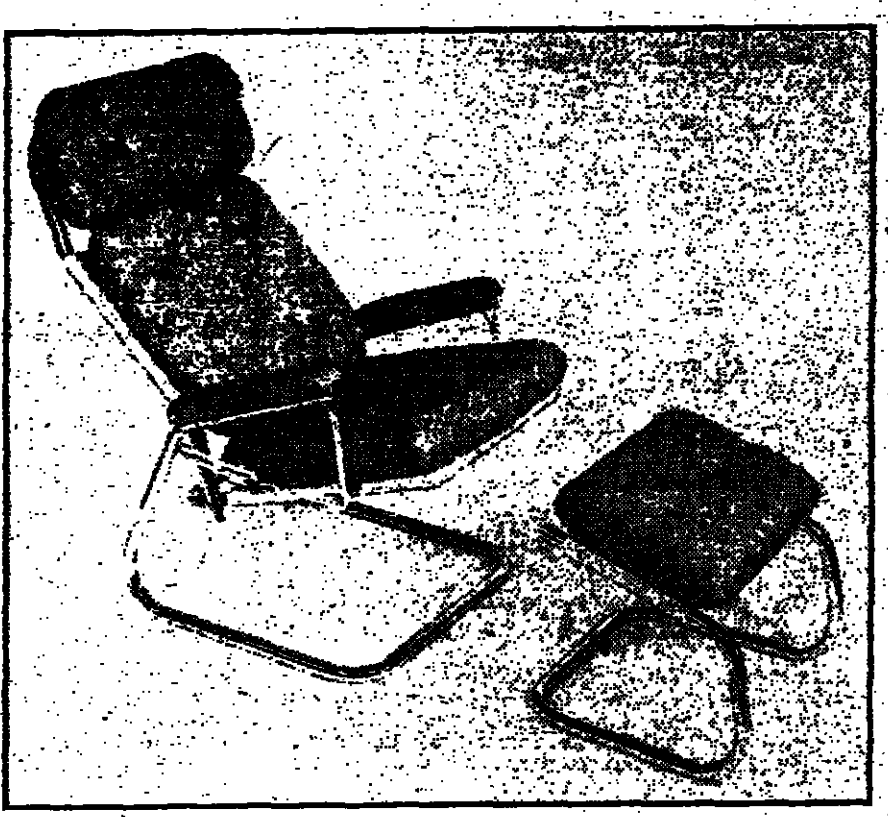
Curtain linings and brushed nylon are alongside cotton or linen huckaback towelling or roller-towelling. You can buy waterproof covers in cotton or rugged Wemyss all-wool blankets at £14 and £18 for single and double beds. Cotton cellular blankets, for those who find duvets too hot in summer, as well as for blanket users, are great in hot weather and only half their price: yes, soft and roller towels and cot sheets etc; fine white linen, polyester cotton and cotton mixtures in colours and patterns in 70in or 90in widths; and even flame-retardant sheeting, which quite a

few readers have wanted but been unable to find.

One of Britain's successful, top-flight decorators is Faith Panton, a former chartered accountant who has been doing beautiful things very fast to homes and offices, especially for people abroad planning to come over here because they know she is emphatic about deliveries and service, that she will not deal with any but the best though not always the most expensive; and she confirmed that Designair is everything it claims to be for home or office, board-room or kitchen, public or domestic. Try them at 147 Sloane Street, SW1 (01-730 2113).



New Dimension



Suffolk Recliner

after sticky fingers have been at it. The Welsh dresser with cottage doors, each with glass complete, is about £265 including VAT and delivery to anywhere in Britain. Live awhile with Hamlet's catalogue from Hamlet Furniture, Waverley Road, Bristol BS17 5QT (Chipping Sodbury 319090).

A very real favourite of mine for mail order or personal shoppers is Rookmoor Mills, Bath Road, near Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 5ND (Amberley 2577). The accent is on service here and they will go to endless trouble to ensure satisfied customers with the exception of those who start hurling abuse at the slightest mistake and find Rookmoor digging their toes in as they never do to the pleasant customers who make up the greater part of their clientele.

Their beds are the most comfortable I have tried—mine is a firm mattress but you can get medium and soft as well. The mattresses are resilient or comfortable, and they will sell as many shops and stores now do not, the two link-together single beds that can be one large one. Headboards are in brass or cane, and some beds have drawers in the base.

Their carpeting is excellent and they go for textures—understandably since they started with good-quality rush matting and got used to texture on the floors. The rush flooring of small squares, with a tight weave, is very hard-wearing and it looks good, but anyone who can afford it will be tempted by the chunky pile of the yarns carpetings. They also have cane furniture, including the now-famous Peacock Throne and the rocking chairs, and an excellent collection of prints and pictures, much of it from the Christie's Fine Art collections. They are open on Sundays and week-end shopping there is fun, with people going along to enjoy the rural barns now converted into showrooms. Their mail-order service and delivery are excellent—the sales manager is married to the man who runs the local delivery business and I detect a high degree of cooperation.

At The Furniture Workshop in Suffolk you might expect to find rustic furniture, even farm stools, but you would actually see a really comfortable, highly sophisticated recliner. It is a rather good-looking version of a simple dentist's chair, designed and conceived

by David Wicks who reckons hours daily commuting on a forlorn British Rail seat to be a teaching hospital, converted a building into a workshop, and is rated on making comfortable armchairs. After many wags and much trial and error, he the Suffolk Recliner.

The Suffolk Recliner changes smoothly, without the jerky, similar chairs, and is adjustable. The object is to be whole body but especially in the region where backache strikes.

And then the prototype but it was obviously going to be expensive. Thus David Wicks to market it directly, to cut middle costs of distribution, that people will want his comfort. And it can be yours with padded arms as in the £18.50, which is pretty much as good as the best, and one of the kind of fibre 6 Dralon velvets are made cleaning is easy enough. It cost more. Life cushions cost as well as comfort.

Do ring him for more details. He will be in any case refund your money if you chair within seven days but sit in it for a good long time properly. The Furniture Workshop, at Forward Green, Stowmarket (Stowmarket 222).

Then we come to Marie L. acquiring a great name in Nicknamed "King of the UK" Lane has been making his name from the dead ends, as we to preserve some of these in our homes as because it is an elemental ruggedness, a biography, *Running*, is for many people for me to do his escapades of the past sense for the fact that he to make furniture and to stop running. He is at the Exhibition.

A hanger for both the iron and the board, (as long as the hanger has the type of foot shown here as most of them have) is practical and inexpensive at £2.20 plus 30p p/p or £4.50 for two including p/p. Many mail order firms are now offering some discount for pairs thanks to the slight saving in costs. The hanger is made of two similar packing rather than singles from a wide range. The address is Mister Lewis, 82 High Street, Watlington, Oxford, OX1 7LD, and the material is strong chrome steel.

bedclothes, place mats and many other things.

One of the things I particularly like and recommend is something I have not seen elsewhere—the cotton, quilted, fitted overlay mattress cover which fits like a fitted bottom sheet. It is of pre-shrunk, bleached cotton, closely quilted to an interlining of fine absorbent fibre. It is so much better than an underblanket for protecting the mattress and is amazingly comfortable, adding so much to a bed's comfort that my visitors comment on it. Machine washable, very hard-wearing—some in 18 years old—it comes in many sizes, from about £8 up to nearly £14 for the six-foot wide bed.

What crime writers do when they get together

For the city they call the Big Apple the past seven days were not national hot-dog week. There was a large scroll with a seal in gold to say otherwise: "I, Edward Koch, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 12, 1978 'I Love a Mystery Week'." It was also the week that included St Patrick's Day and the Empire State Building was bathed in a bluish green by night while Friday itself was another and noisier story.

But for 50-odd mystery merchants who crossed the Atlantic and a few who crossed the Pacific, it was the second International Congress of Crime Writers (London held the first in 1975) when, in visionary theory at least, an aged Fleming accompanied by an only slightly less octogenarian Miss Twitters would confront a still robust, if paunchy, Mr. Harrow, gun in hand. Only, of course, life is more complicated.

British voices ranged from the writer of the simple annals of a north country inspector who was heard to say "charmingly, I well, I never ever thought I'd be standing in the middle of Park Avenue," to the much sadder fellow in the cocktail lounge exclaiming "Of course, New York is the Edvardian city. And the moribund splendours of the Biltmore Hotel where most of the congress folk were there to prove him right, partly."

The Scandinavians, as fixed for crime as Israelis and Italians

Where in the simplistic picture do you fit the substantial Swedish delegation, the Norwegians and the Danes—all Scandinavians are crime-fixated, it seems as well as the Japanese, the Portuguese, the Italians, the Israelis, the Canadians, the French and Miss Walbridge McCully from the Virgin Islands? And, if my own experience is anything to go by, there was a crime writer from somewhere even more remote than the Virgin Islands.

Well, a man came up to me, neared at the statutory name label on my coat and exclaimed: "H. R. F. Keating! But I thought he was dead." And there may well have been someone present yet more sinister. One of the most successful lecturers was Captain Frank Bolz, the New York Police Department specialist in hostage negotiation, and he revealed that nowadays one of the difficulties of his particular speciality is that would-be terrorists do their damndest to attend lectures on hostage

The wind that blows for me in El Medano

The young Spaniard on the check-out desk in the supermarket Juanita has mastered in English, German, French, Dutch and Swedish the small talk of causing the bill, counting out the change, handing it over and thanking for custom—all in the clear, patient, emphatic tone of a missionary selling beads to the savages.

There are a lot of apartments rented in Madrid. Tense, every winter by fugitives from the northern winter. Every morning we jostle and shove in the supermarkets, presenting to the courteous folk behind the counters an extraordinary impression of beef-faced lunatics.

The characteristic language block is to be able to speak but not understand. "Good day, sir. Have you yoghurt?" "Yes, female sir, Natural or flavoured?" "No, no—yoghurt, by favour."

"Yes, female sir. Yaw. Natural or flavoured?" Repeated and multiplied daily, these exchanges ought to drive the Spaniards crazy, but their courtesy never fails. They welcome the trade and are masters of the situation. The customers are meek.

I watched a smiling transaction between the younger son of an Englishwoman who had come in for a bottle of mouthwash. She went away quite contentedly with a tube of adhesive for fixing wobbly dentures. I bought a jar of coffee substitute purely because, in order to show it to me, Don Luis had had to get out his ladder and climb up to a shelf to fetch it down. Rather than make him take it back, which I felt might sadden him, I pretended that it was of all things just what I had hoped for.

Another time I was mortified to find that what I thought was a very natural impression that she was buying a fillet of frozen sole, had bought a hunk of Greenland turbot frozen in Japan (and what more curious evidence could you have that the world is becoming a single huge supermarket), but she pointed out that we were only playing the parts assigned to us.

All the same there is great delight in self-catering. The hotels have adopted a bland

negotiation before they set to work.

Crime novels are as much entertainment as they are grim stories of homicide and terrorism, eerie house and frightened lady, and the crime writers managed not to be always serious. We went to New York's aqueduct race track, where they held the Mystery Writers Stakes and a Ripper lost his crown to Mr. Percy Parker, one of America's few black crime writers.

We saw, too, splendid old primitive Sherlock Holmes films from circa 1903 to the first Basil Rathbone triumph when \$2,000 were won in making fog to surround Baker-ville Hall.

Yet sterner tasks were accomplished as well. New York's final snowstorm of winter was traced through to reach the "Harper and Row" novels of suspense cocktail party. And cherry-topped Virginia ham was successfully combated at the "Ross Macdonald luncheon" where Mr. Macdonald himself, interestingly traced the art back to Coleridge. And, sorting ill with so much mightily eating there was an autopsy of a (Caucasian male, aged approximately 30 years, found in a snow heap in Central Park).

Work was done, too. There were the learned lectures, even if they resounded not so much with phrases like "The rigor mortis clue" as with Mr. Ellery Queen's pronouncement that "the importance of slush cannot be overestimated" (No, not New York's grisly snow, but unsolicited manuscripts).

We heard, too, of "the long form" (TV serials) and the "short shorts" (Stories below 3,000 words) of which the champion, Mr. Queen said, was a one-worder: "Bang!"

If there was one subject indeed on which every delegate agreed it was that "crime does not pay—enough". There was an audible gasp when a tough New York literary agent bluntly declared that the mystery novel was becoming, thousand-sale by thousand-sale, markedly less of a good proposition. (Heartening news next day from Miss Joan Kahn, doyenne of mystery editors, who reassured us all that the form was merely "moving towards the mainstream").

But mostly it was talk. Writers, by and large, are talkers and New Yorkers, surely are great talkers. So backs were scratched ("I read your book," "You read my book,") and eyes were rubbed and gossip was gossiped and, yes, we're having a marvellous time.

H. R. F. Keating

International menu which certainly doesn't emphasise national dishes. There is huge pleasure in buying the makings of a classic Spanish dish, such as black beans simmered with garlic and eaten cold with olive oil and a chopped sweet Spanish onion and the hard crusted bread and Manchego cheese, with a bottle of wine at 45 pence a litre.

To live like this is to feel more of a person, less of a party member.

To go back to a place is to court disappointment, I hadn't seen El Medano for five years. I hardly expected its peace and quiet to have survived the coming of the motorways linking it with Santa Cruz, but they have.

In the jargon of the United Nations, it would be called a "developing" area, which means that it hasn't developed and is rather messier than it was. The roads are rough and the village, the clumps of cactus one passes on the path to the plaza still thrive, but share space with a couple of garbage dumps.

There has been a negative development on the sunstruck waste of flat rock and sand behind the big beach outside the village. Walking out there one brilliant morning, straight into the sunlight, I walked towards countless dazzling points of reflected light, every one of them a bit of broken glass.

It was spread over such a wide area I wondered if it had been deliberate, perhaps to discourage cars from driving right down to the shore. I had forgotten that bottles left in the sun will explode. Ahead of me a peasant was raking together some of the rubbish people leave behind, like plastic dustpans, detergent and a suntan container, tyres and broomhandles, and setting fire to them. As I walked past I heard the muffled roar of bottles exploding. I felt myself lucky not to be winged by a shard.

What holds El Medano back, or protects it, is the prevailing wind, which sweeps down from the north-east. Ahead of me a peasant was raking together some of the rubbish people leave behind, like plastic dustpans, detergent and a suntan container, tyres and broomhandles, and setting fire to them. As I walked past I heard the muffled roar of bottles exploding. I felt myself lucky not to be winged by a shard.

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But people like us, who find ourselves drawn to return know that it is easier to get away from the wind than it would be to get away from the people who would be here if there wasn't any wind.

Peter Black

Why Labour is banging the drum in Scotland

Fred Emery



Mr Callaghan: getting ready to step out in Scotland

There is a missing factor in much current political conversation in London. Perhaps it is missed because of obsessive speculation over possible dates for the election—now met more intensely outside Westminster than within its palace. The ingredients of the Prime Minister's presumed narrowing consideration are getting boring the way they are so readily rehearsed—nowhere more assuredly, it seems, than in the City.

Trade figures up again; dollar and pound resisting containment but improvements ahead; the Prime Minister becoming converted to that old time religion of income tax cuts coinciding with expanding public expenditure (the Americans do it so why cannot we?); a cautious but generous Budget within the month; and the Prime Minister yet again shaking the creases out of his mantle as sage advocate of international economic collective security, suddenly off to converse with President Carter (and to reembrace the wayward son-in-law who let the world into the secret of our Mosses). It all adds up to an election shortly, one is told.

But Mr Callaghan's other worry, which much opinion in the metropolis seems determined not to notice, is so obvious it needs no restatement. Already it has crushed a lot of breath out of most of this current parliamentary session. It is of course not the eye-glazing topic of devaluation, which many otherwise intelligent people seem to think persists in some vacuum; it is simply Scotland.

Mr Callaghan knows. He is going to Dumfries today to try to win the support of the Scottish Council of Labour. At stake, immediately, is the next by-election at Glasgow, Garscadden, which may now be

brought on right after the Budget in mid-April. But the stakes are higher. There is the king but important Scotland Bill which would, provided the Scots vote for it strongly enough in the refer-

endum, set up that "devolved" new assembly in Edinburgh. Without it being at least offered to the Scots voters the Government would look feeble after all its pursuit of devolution.

The way Scotland goes in a general election traditionally seals the fate of a possible Labour government; now it affects that of a possible Conservative government, and with an exaggeration—as Mr Ronald Faux, *The Times* Scottish correspondent has recently emphasised—might, at the election after next, the United Kingdom, at least as we have known it.

Restating the arithmetic traces the Scottish lifeblood for any Labour government with a small majority—and this one now stands in a 16 overall majority—Labour presently holds 40 of the 71 Scottish seats, and can afford to lose none, including the vacancy at Garscadden.

The Scottish National Party, having possibly passed the high water mark of its popularity, is presently in a position to capture Conservative seats, now threatens Labour's supremacy—while forcing the Conservatives to look to England alone for an overall victory.

Such conclusions will be contested publicly by both major parties. But the initial test will come at Garscadden, the first by-election in Scotland since 1973, and the more awaited because the SNP candidate came second to Labour in October 1974.

A reinvigorated Scottish Labour hierarchy is bidding for the vote to hold Garscadden and so scotch the SNP, if not kill it. The Scottish Conservatives, for whom Mr Teddy

Taylor has deployed the high risk tactic of all-out assault on devolution, are making much of it, and there is report of revitalized party organization.

But the suggestion this week from Garscadden Conservatives (on the basis more of a canvass than an opinion poll) that they are now running second, ahead of the SNP, is being treated with great scepticism by breed watchers in both Conservative and Government high commands.

The general assumption at this stage seems to be that Labour should hold on, with the SNP second. But that the likelihood still lies ahead that, at a general election, SNP might take 10-12 seats from Labour, possibly exchanging a couple of gains and losses with the Conservatives.

The implication of that kind of a result are clear enough. Conservatives would have to gain some 37 seats, virtually all in England (for Wales, too, is privately reckoned a lost cause) to just gain an overall majority in the Commons. That could come their way with a swing of 3 per cent; to get up a proper working majority they could, with a swing of 5 per cent, hope to gain up to 55 seats from Labour.

It sounds feasible enough. But if it fell short, then the SNP, as the third party of the kingdom, emerges as the unenvied come balancer. With Mrs Thatcher and Mr Taylor having fought devolution north and south, could they strike a deal with the SNP? Would Mr Callaghan do it, bleeding from their depredations in Labour seats? It is evidently none too soon

to carry the fight to the SNP, right there in Garscadden. Their prospective candidate is widely reported to have boomed.

A defeat for the SNP at Garscadden—and third place could help dent their image of proceeding ever onwards and upwards. Mythology does not take kindly to that kind of result.

But the nationalist appeal is loose, past the stage of mythology; North Sea oil is real and close enough, though Scotland's decisive vote against the devolution plans may now question that reality for the SNP. A reverse for the SNP at Garscadden would doubtless lead nationalist supporters to redouble their efforts at a general election.

Conversely, anything seeming like a by-election success for Labour or Conservative could lead again to complacency, or so their headquarters operatives fear. Quebec holds that lesson. Then later in the year—and surely before a general election—will come the test of the referendum.

Why not take that political north of the border this year?

Footnote. My report last week that the immigration row made some Conservative MPs dread what the "supposed" themes examine under Mr Angus Maude will drum up next needs correction. This little known sub-Shadow Cabinet committee, Mr Maude points out, never at any time discussed immigration nor included a single word about it in any paper it submitted; furthermore, he says, the committee ceased to exist a month ago.

The killing of young Edward: so it wasn't his wicked stepmother after all

One thousand years ago today, early in the evening of March 18, 979, Edward, King of England, was waylaid at the entrance to Corfe Castle, dragged from his horse and foully slaughtered. "No worse deed was done since the English race first saw Britain," recorded the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

The royal victim, 18 years old at the most, had succeeded Edgar, his father, three years previously, in circumstances which gave rise to hot dispute. Doubts as to his legitimacy were reinforced by suggestions that he had not been born in the purple—i.e. that his mother, Aethelfleda, although legally married to Edgar, had not been consecrated to the kingdom at the time of Edward's birth.

Further objections to the succession were based on Edward's reputation for violence; in words of Byrhtferth, a monk of Ramsey writing some 30 years after the event, he "inspired in all not only fear but even terror, for he scourged them" not only with words, but also truly with dire blows and aspects of his own men dwelling with him.

The object of Edward's visit to Corfe, one of the mightiest fortresses in his realm, was to call on his stepmother, Aethelfleda, and her son, Ethelred, then about 12 years old. Both were in residence at the castle, and it is to them that tradition has generally attributed the guilt for Edward's murder. Tradition, not for the first or last time in the history of the Anglo-Saxon kings, is almost certainly unjust.

According to Dr Simon Keynes, research fellow in history at Trinity College, Cambridge, the injustice arose chiefly from a desire by post-Conquest historians to lay the blame for the blinding of the next reign upon the weak but underserving shoulders of Ethelred, Edward's step-brother and successor. Clearly, they felt, Ethelred had forfeited God's favour by murdering his step-brother, and he was guilty of some great crime.

Equally clearly, no mere boy could have conceived so dastardly a murder, let alone executed it. Obviously, Aethelfleda, who had both the motive and the opportunity, was the guilty one. But she was a step-mother and therefore wicked (by nature) had acted on Ethelred's behalf.

Of such stuff are legends

made. Dr Keynes, when he lectures tomorrow at a millenary conference on the death of Edward, will be at pains to demolish the tradition. He points out that the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, written while Edward's assassins were still alive, specifically distinguishes between Edward's healthy layers and his earthly kinsmen. None of the other contemporary sources, he says, implicate either Aethelfleda or Ethelred, and indeed they can be construed as exonerating them both.

Numerous other traditions grew out of Edward's bloody death. Such were the miracles attributed to his relics that within 20 years the boy king was revered throughout Britain as a martyr and as a saint. The speed with which this cult flourished is the subject of another lecture at the Oxford conference, to be delivered today by Miss Christine Fell, reader in English at Nottingham University.

Miss Fell, whose 1971 study of the *Passio et Miracula Sancti Edwardi Regis et Martyris* is the standard work on Edwardian hagiography, believes that the cult was unique for the speed and impact of its growth. She attributes this to the special qualities of saintliness that the Anglo-Saxons appear to have attached to "boy victims" such as St Kenelm of Mercia, St Ethelbert of East Angles and the two brothers, Saints Ethelbert and Ethelred of Kent. All were slain before they reached manhood.

Most of the "miracles" occurred within the first three years of Edward's death. His mutilated body, it was soon claimed, had been flung into the hovel of a blind, old woman who had at once received her sight. Later it was discovered lying in either a pool or a well which instantly became a spring of healing water; and when eventually the relics were carried from Wareham to Shaftesbury, the horse ridden by the hypocritical Aethelfleda refused to follow in the procession.

Already by 1001, Ethelred, supposedly an accomplice in Edward's murder and certainly its beneficiary, was willing to sign a charter referring to his half-brother as a martyr. Seven years later, when he was 30 years after Edward's death, a writ (Anglo-Saxon Parliament) ordered the annual observance of Edward's mass-

day within the monastic calendar.

It is that same observance which will be celebrated with special pomp this afternoon in the lovely parish church of St Edward, King and Martyr in the village of Corfe Castle, Dorset, the village of the Saxon shore. The service will be attended by churchmen of many denominations, led by the Bishop of Salisbury, and by mayors and dignitaries from all over the Isle of Purbeck and beyond.

The Lord Lieutenant of Dorset will represent the *parvulus* House of Windsor—a pleasing reminder that Queen Elizabeth II's ancestry can be traced back, without inordinate difficulty, to the ninth century kings of Wessex.

The Rector of St Edward's, the Rev. Gerald S. Squarey, has devised the order of service to form both an act of worship and an exercise in liturgical conservation. "It's not just a case of 'Oh God our help in ages past,'" he says. "It is also a careful endeavour to recover forms of praise which have not been in use since medieval times."

The church choristers will wear the scarlet cassocks to which Corfe's former status as a Royal Peculiar has entitled them ("more or less," says Mr Squarey) since 1578, and will be joined by contingents from Wareham and near by Langton Matravers. The latter will sing a Latin hymn to St Edward composed in the twelfth century and set to plainsong music of the same period; a brave undertaking for a village choir, and a happy tribute to St Edward, martyr and boy king.

Millennium events

A 24-page programme of millennium events over the next seven months is available from 19 West St, Corfe Castle, Dorset (30p, post free).

A limited number of first-day commemorative covers are available from today at the 5p Town of London stamp was specially franked in Corfe Castle sub-post office on the day of issue (50p with large sale from Millennium Stamps, Corfe Castle).

The first of two new plays about St Edward will be performed in Corfe Castle tonight. The book, entitled *Murder or Sacrifice?*, is published by the author, Rachel Lloyd (Clarendon's Corfe Castle, £2.14 including postage).

Richard Sachs



Engraving by courtesy of Nottingham University

An eighteenth century engraving of King Edward at Corfe Castle: was he poisoned, stabbed or shot with arrows?

How two cultures met and misunderstood

It is ironic that as the science fiction film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* opens in London today an exhibition in Manchester recording the only occasion in human history when such an encounter took place.

Civilizations have met head-on, each so different as to make it seem like a collision between two worlds. In South America military conquest overwhelmed the weaker. But once the civilizations were equally formidable, equally confident.

China's opening today at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester records the effect on European taste in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries of contact with the Chinese empire. Organized by students of the museum studies course at Manchester University, the exhibition's porcelains and furniture are footnotes to the awe, the mutual incomprehension and the enthusiasms which follow on a close encounter.

In the middle ages Europe simply refused to believe in an empire which was larger, wealthier and better administered than Rome ever had been.

Marco Polo was regarded as the first purveyor of science fiction.

It was thus a great shock when traders, Jesuits and ambassadors began to return in the seventeenth century. John Nieuhoff went with the Dutch embassy to the Kangnido court. "It is almost incredible for anyone to believe (unless they had seen it) in what state and pomp these idolaters and heretics prince, live and in what good order their people are governed."

But there was something else, something much more startling. The whole kingdom is swayed by philosophers to whom not only the people but the grandees of the court yield an awful reverence.

The Europe of the Enlightenment stepped back. The philosopher Leibnitz ventured the opinion that instead of missionaries being sent to China Chinese missionaries should be sent to Europe. To Voltaire the Chinese empire was simply "the best the world has seen."

But then few people had ever been there, and the reality was too far away for it to intrude in the meantime there were the products of the place

to consider. The West believed that the few pieces of porcelain which the traders brought back had magic properties: they broke when filled with poison. They were thus of the highest political significance, and the West did not know how to make porcelain until the first decade of the eighteenth century.

Augustus the Strong of Saxony had two passions, porcelain and women. He had 350 bastards but porcelain was expensive so he set his alchemists to work. In 1708 one came up with the first piece of unglazed white hard-paste porcelain. Two years later the Meissen works was set up, when the secret of manufacture was guarded like that of the atomic bomb. Naturally within 20 years there were porcelain factories all across Europe.

It was not that the passion for Chinese porcelain came into its own. Chinese pieces were copied. The new craze prompted mad enthusiasms for all things Chinese. On the plates of Staffordshire, a world of stillness was depicted. It was a world of gardens and lakes where old men sat under trees

and watched the butterflies pass. One complicating factor was that few people had ever seen a Chinaman, let alone China. No matter: a moon face, long garments and a pagoda and the craze roared on.

There was never anything like it in Europe. An indication of how popular it was is that all the £90,000 worth of exhibits in the Whitworth came from museums and collections within 40 miles of Manchester. All of these have so much Chineseerie that very little of what is on show will ever have been seen before by the public.

The West began to produce its own Chinese designs. Thus the willow pattern, despite the blue and white Nanjing colours, has its origin in the England of the 1770s. A Chinaman of the time would have found it all very puzzling.

Little escaped the craze. On show is 1760 Staffordshire jug featuring Bonnie Prince Charlie in Highland dress, but surrounded by flowers that never grew in Scotland. A certain piquancy is added by the fact that the Chinese did not export their best porcelain, but only the garish vari-

ety they thought would appeal to Europeans. They were not adverse to cashing in on their close encounter, so they in turn began trying to reproduce European designs. There followed a mad ballet of mutual incomprehension.

A 1730 plate has on it the Chinese version of the Judgment of Paris. Three women as big as sumo wrestlers tower through a garden. There were hunting scenes, with peculiar thick-necked dogs racing over bare plains, and the huntsman staggering drunk. There were bowls with a dog-faced John Wilkes on them. More successfully there were bowls showing wharf scenes at Canton, the European merchants swaggering with their cases.

The two civilizations sufficed at each other like strange dogs. The English produced what they thought to be Chinese furniture, bizarre frail things with bells and upswung cornices. The Chinese produced what they thought was English furniture, heavy, grotesque chairs with vast leather seats. The Chinese furniture of the time was austere and beautiful.

The exhibition at the Whit-

worth covers the period 1650 to 1820. The last was carefully chosen. The Prince Regent had unamiably gone over the top as usual, and the excesses of the Brighton Pavilion had brought home the absurdity of Chinolatrie. It had also become associated with the excesses of the ancien regime which had dressed whole villages on the Continent in Chinese costume. As more people visited China so its fascination withered: the old dream of the philosophers' kingdom gave way to the reality of a corrupt empire.

But Chinolatrie is oddly enduring. It is still there today in a million tea-sets. The three moon faces glide over the bridge and the swallows hover, as big as bull mastiffs.

Its most alarming manifestation was, oddly enough, a twentieth century one. The eccentric Sir George Sitwell, his eldest son recalled, was filled with an ambition to see all the white cows in his park with a blue Chinese pattern. "But the animals were so obtuse and perverse as in the end to oblige him to abandon the attempt."

Byron Rogers



WEST'S GAIN: RUSSIA'S LOSS

By depriving Mr Rostropovich of his Soviet citizenship the Soviet Union is depriving itself of one of the greatest musicians alive today. The gesture is therefore not only cruel towards Mr Rostropovich, who is devoted to his country, but also severely damaging to the Soviet Union and significant for what it says about attitudes now prevailing there. Doubtless it is intended as a warning to other stars who may step out of line or who yearn for success in the West, but the message it conveys is deeper and ultimately more damaging. It reveals a growing sense of insecurity in the face of the creative forces still generated within Soviet borders. It is not an isolated incident. In recent years there has been an extraordinary exodus of cultural and intellectual talent from the Soviet Union. An incomplete list of the most distinguished names would include Zolotarev, Nekrasov, Maximov, Brodsky, Sinyavsky, Nurev, Baryshnikov, the Panovs, Medvedev and Orlovsky. Some have left willingly and some not, but they are in common that in one way or another the Soviet Union has demonstrated its unwillingness to accommodate their talents.

Recently there have also been attacks by the Soviet press on distinguished figures still working in Moscow, such as Mr Yuri Lyubimov. The pressures for conformity appear to be increasing, and cultural exchanges with the West are, on the whole, neither growing in quantity nor improving in quality. The Soviet Union seems less than ever willing to play the part it should in international cultural exchange, or at any rate is prepared to do so only on terms which are so different from those other cultured countries that they diminish incentives on all sides. There is, of course, a welcome improvement in so far as creative artists who do not conform are no longer automatically shot, imprisoned or totally silenced. It is better that Russian culture should flourish in the West than not at all, and to some extent the Soviet Union's loss is the West's gain. But in the long run both East and West need the interchange which is normal in the rest of the developed world. This will be impossible as long as the Soviet authorities insist that the maintenance of political control is more important than the fostering of artistic creativity. Nobody of real artistic stature can long tolerate the petty controls which the Soviet authorities insist

upon, the permissions that have to be given for every concert programme and, for every trip abroad, the delays and harassments, not to mention the pocketing by the state of nearly all foreign earnings.

If present trends continue they will become still more damaging. A state which cannot live with its cultural heritage cuts itself off from one of the vital sources of regeneration and historical legitimacy. It condemns itself to a form of slow inner death. There has been no better elucidation of this than a letter written three years ago to Dr Husak, the Czech leader, by another victim of the same system, Mr Václav Havel, the playwright, now scandalously imprisoned. "The essence of authority," he wrote, "consists basically in a distrust of all variety, uniqueness and transcendence; in an aversion to everything unknown, impalpable and currently obscure; in a proclivity for the uniform, the identical, the inert; in deep affection for the status quo. . . . Somewhere at the bottom of every political authority which has chosen the path to entropy lies hidden the death principle." That is the path the Soviet Union seems to be choosing by cutting itself off from a man so devoted to life as Mr Rostropovich. It is hurting itself more than him.

A NEW ERA FOR GIBRALTAR

A meeting in Paris this week between Dr Owen and Señor Peña, the Spanish Foreign Minister, gave a good indication of the very different atmosphere which the issue of Gibraltar is now being discussed. The Spanish Government has not even up its claim to Gibraltar, or no one expects that there can be a quick solution. But it is now possible to imagine that a solution may eventually be reached, or that until it is, the question of Gibraltar will not be allowed to sour relations in other areas between Britain and Spain. This is a real advance, which is due to the more pragmatic approach taken in Madrid since the death of General Franco and the adoption of a democratic system of government.

The basic change is that the British now acknowledge the need to take account of the interests of the Gibraltarians in reaching a settlement. In the eyes of General Franco they took little more than men in uniform. When they were indifferent to the fact that they were enacting them further. They were not aware that there can be no angle in the status of Gibraltar without the agreement of the Gibraltarians; and they have gone to think of formulae which

might be acceptable to them, such as giving Gibraltar a status comparable to that of Catalonia and the Basque country, or one allowing for even more autonomy.

Nothing like that would be acceptable now, and there is no expectation that proposals of this sort will come up for discussion at this stage. Instead, the working groups which are to be set up will concentrate on very practical measures which can be taken immediately and which can help to rebuild confidence between Gibraltar and Spain—the reopening of the ferry between Gibraltar and Algeiras, the permanent restoration of telecommunications, and the payment of social security benefits to Spanish workers who lost their jobs in Gibraltar when the frontier was closed. Spain has already moved in this direction by opening the telephone link last Christmas and leaving it open. But there is much more that it can do if it really wants to win the trust of the Gibraltarians.

The Spanish Government has to move carefully because of its own public opinion, which feels strongly about Gibraltar, but all the indications are that it wants to take the heat out of the issue. For one thing it has to recognize that if ever Gibraltar became part of Spain, Morocco would be almost certain to

revive its claim to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. It also needs British support if it is to succeed in becoming a member of the European Community, especially as France and Italy have reservations about competition from its agriculture; and it is thinking about joining Nato. After years of isolation, Spain is rejoining the mainstream of European affairs, and this creates a new and less urgent context in which to discuss Gibraltar.

As far as Britain is concerned, it is essential that the Gibraltarians should be closely associated with any talks that concern them, and that the impression should not be given that the British Government might be prepared to sacrifice Gibraltarian interests in a deal with Madrid. There is no suspicion of this at present, since Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, and Mr Maurice Xiberras, the Leader of the Opposition, were both at the meeting in Paris, and Sir Joshua afterwards described himself as fully satisfied with the outcome. In the long run, it is not clear what form a Gibraltar settlement might take. But it should not be impossible to reach an agreement within the evolving European context which can be accepted by all concerned.

THE RIGHT TO SUE FOR LIBEL

Last month, an English jury awarded Dr Milton Obote, the former President of Uganda, damages of £40,000 against Lady Listowel, for an allegation in a book she had written that he had acted corruptly while in office. Lady Listowel had admitted that she had insufficiently researched her work, and there was no suggestion made in court then, and none made by *The Times* now, at Dr Obote had conducted himself improperly. He was, under the law of this country, entitled to come before a jury to obtain compensation for the damage to his reputation made against him. But was it right that he should be?

Dr Obote is and was not a sident here. Although well-known as the former leader of the Commonwealth country, it is not said that he has any special reputation here. The attacks gave rise to the defamatory statements were alleged wrongly to have been committed in Uganda, not in Britain. The only aspect of the case that referred jurisdiction on an English court was that the defendant, the writer of the libel, is resident and domiciled here. (The domicile of the publishing company would equally be conferred such jurisdiction.) The fact alone should not be sufficient reason to allow the arts of England to be burdened by libel actions brought by people with little connexion with this country.

The governments of more than two thirds of the countries of the world make it impossible for outsiders to have any real access to information about events within their borders. Journalists in countries with a free or near-free press have a duty to their public to keep them informed of what is happening in countries without the same freedoms. Because of the closed nature of those societies, it is usually impossible to ascertain the true state of affairs at first hand, and other means have to be used. For that reason, journalists often have to accept secondary sources—the accounts of refugees, for instance. Proof, in the legal sense, is often absent, but it is the clear duty of the press to give its public what information it has, even if it falls short of that legal degree of provability.

Yet it is precisely proof of that kind which the courts require from a defendant seeking to show that apparently defamatory allegations made against a plaintiff were in fact true. Stalin could well have won a libel action against *The Times* for saying, in the 1930s, that he had been responsible for the deaths of millions. *The Times* has often published reports about atrocities perpetrated by tyrannical regimes. Many of the allegations could not be proved to the satisfaction of a court and no one would be allowed to search for the evidence on the spot. Our legal system, however,

could allow the leaders or high officials of those countries to sue *The Times* for libel.

The same principle holds true for less spectacular cases. Had Lady Listowel not admitted that she had been careless, but wished to contest the claim, how could she possibly have proved that her allegations were correct? Even where the other country involved is in that minority which allows a degree of freedom and where, therefore, investigations could be carried out, an English court could provide a remedy for the foreign plaintiff which he could get nowhere else. A libellous statement made about a public figure in the United States would probably not be the subject of a libel suit there because of the laxity of their law of defamation. But it was also published in this country, he could then come to England with which he has no links, and obtain libel damages which he could not have got in the country where he lives and works. That cannot be just.

The law should be changed to exclude such absurdities. English courts should only have jurisdiction in defamation cases where the plaintiff resides here, or has some substantial connexion with this country, or has a specific (but not general) reputation here, or where the defendant forming the subject of the defamatory remarks took place here. If none of those factors exist, the plaintiff's suit should not be entertained.

British Library

Mr Robert Key
The debate about the new British Library, its site and its facilities will no doubt continue for a long time. I hope this will not be allowed to obscure the problem created by the decision to switch the site from Oldbury to St Pancras. As long as 1961 property was bought by the government, immediately to the south of the British Museum site which was then in favour. The area has suffered from being blighted ever since. Attraction buildings have decayed, businesses have faced an uncertain future, residents have felt insecure directly affected employees such as caretakers have been neglected by the bureaucracy of the Property Agency and Camden Council. In short, most of the community has lost out. In January 18, 1977, Miss Margaret Jackson, MP told the House of Commons that plans for the new British Library were owned by the Department of the Environment

"should be completed in the near future" (Hansard) and that the properties not required would be disposed of by auction or tender. The patient people of Bloomsbury are no doubt happy that the nation is to enjoy a new library and delighted that their houses are not, after all, to be pulled down. But it is now high time the Department of the Environment, through the Property Services Agency, honoured its commitment, so that the life of the community can return to normality it has been denied for many years.

Yours faithfully,
PROSPECTIVE CONSERVATIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE,
Holborn and St Pancras South Conservative Association,
26 Argyle Square, WC1.

A new flag?

From Mr W. S. Parker
Sir, With the impending devolution of Scotland, it is necessary to remove the Scotch element

from the Union Jack. This will leave us with the cross of St George and the saltire of St Patrick on a white ground. Presumably there would also have to be due amendments to the routine of flag etiquette.

Yours faithfully,
W. S. PARKER,
68 Ladies Mile Road,
Parcham, Brighton.

World Cup on television

From Mr Kenneth Bird
Sir, It is tragic to learn that the BBC and ITV cannot sort themselves out over the dreary period of the World Cup.

To be subjected to hours of football hysteria on two channels is an insult to millions of people, including myself, who find this particular sport utterly boring.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BIRD,
Newwood Lodge,
Ropate, Petersfield,
Hampshire.

Israel's retaliation for PLO attack

From Mr Peter J. Kleeman
Sir, The many cross currents that ebb and flow through the Middle East can tend to distort rational and logical argument. Your leader (March 16) accuses the Government of Israel of both lacking wisdom in responding to President Sadat's initiative in an "inadequate and no doubt disastrous" manner. The peace formula proposed by Prime Minister Begin and subsequently approved by President Carter as a fair and reasonable basis for discussion has been fully commented upon. These proposals, as is known, led to the formation of two Joint Israeli-Egyptian committees, namely the political committee which met in Jerusalem and the military committee meeting in Cairo. What is perhaps less well known is that before Sadat's strange decision to recall the members of his political committee from Jerusalem, agreement seemed to have been reached on five of the seven major points of contention. The essence of the total lack of communication between these two states for virtually 30 years, such progress is little short of remarkable.

The mystery surrounding Sadat's decision to withdraw the current attitude of Saudi Arabia concerning the barbaric attack by the PLO on innocent civilians last Saturday are surely as worthy of critical comment as the many columns devoted to the efforts made by the state of Israel in trying to eradicate the constant threat to civilian life from terrorist organizations.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. KLEEMAN,
3 Clifford Street, W1.
March 16.

From Mr B. M. Cole
Sir, The dilemma in which the Israeli find themselves is well illustrated by your editorial in this morning's edition (March 13).

However right you may be in your argument that Mr Begin should not retaliate against a most cruel and outrageous attack by the Palestinians, there seems to be one basic human consideration you have not taken into account. We are expecting a decision between "turning the other cheek" and "an eye for an eye".

These are points where the political consideration is immaterial if in the process you break that part of the character of a people that in effect created their nation. The will to survive.

Israel is one of the few countries whose people's pride is not only its life blood but perhaps its most effective weapon.

I am sure that you would expect

the British people to retaliate should the same sort of atrocity be perpetrated against us.

You are asking too much of the Israelis.

Yours faithfully,
B. M. COLE,
Yemenite,
Rode Hill,
Rode,
Somerset.
March 13.

From Mr Kilian Williams
Sir, I am deeply shocked at the behaviour of the Israeli Government in using the murder last week of 37 of its civilians as an excuse for carrying out the premeditated attack by 20,000 troops on the sovereignty of Lebanon. That this nation should have so little respect for the efforts of others to secure peace in the Middle East and should wilfully destroy any hope for the future in order to gain a short term political advantage through the gratification of the baser instincts of its electorate most horrify us all.

Yours faithfully,
KILIAN WILLIAMS,
International Secretary,
Federation of Conservative Students,
Northern Region,
Grey College,
Durham University,
March 16.

From Mr Michael H. Sacher
Sir, In reply to Dr Mehdi's letter of March 4, I would simply like to suggest that as long as any Arab or other governments continue supporting the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the "justice and internationally accepted principles" he speaks of seem to be based on black-mail and murder.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL H. SACHER,
Angels,
Grey College,
Windsor,
Berkshire.
March 15.

From Ms Emma Hooper

Sir, When is a battle not a battle, and a war not a war?
When Palestinian guerrillas kill 30 Israelis who have occupied their country, it is "a bloody act of terrorism". When thousands of Israeli troops invade Lebanese territory, kill hundreds of civilians, and remain six miles inside the Lebanese border, it is "a mopping-up operation".

Yours truly,
EMMA HOOPER,
344 Kings Road, S.W.3.
March 16.

Drugs and the law

From Ms Anne Stanesby and Mr Keith Martin

Sir, The letters from Messrs Raw, Rankin and Marshall-English (*The Times*, March 15) came as a welcome oasis of common sense and fair-mindedness amidst a desert of hysterical and one-sided press coverage of the recent LSD trial.

Much publicity has been given to the exaggerated claims made by the police officers involved in "Operation Julie". For instance, it has been stated over and over again that the defendants were responsible for supplying "half the world market and 95 per cent of the United Kingdom market". Neither is true. LSD remains widely available on the streets at virtually the same cost as it was before the mammoth police operation. Moreover, in the USA alone ten clandestine laboratories manufacturing LSD have been discovered since 1970.

In contrast, virtually no publicity at all has been given to the defendants' point of view. The two letters you published are the only reasonable comments we have seen.

Raw and Rankin are hypocrites to demonstrate so clearly the hypocrisy

underlying society's attitude to drugs. A survey (1976) of London casualty departments showed that self-poisoning by minor tranquillizers accounted for more admissions than any other drug (27 per cent) with barbiturates running a close second (22 per cent). Both of these are manufactured and sold at vast profit legally. Hallucinogens were second to the bottom of the list, accounting for only 1 per cent of admissions. Our experience as a street drugs agency confirms these findings. LSD causes far fewer problems to the consumer than many of the other available black market drugs excepting, of course, cannabis.

The sentences passed on the defendants were disproportionately severe, especially when one considers the treatment meted out to violent offenders—eg, 10 years for sexual assault. Does 13 years for manufacturing LSD really make sense? We don't think it does.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE STANESBY,
KEITH MARTIN,
Release,
1 Elgin Avenue, W9.
March 15.

Exposing fake Fragonards

From the President of the Confédération Internationale des Négociants en Oeuvres d'Art

Sir, For some 20 years now, what I should call the scientific community, comprising museum directors and curators, art historians and reputable dealers, has been more and more deeply concerned by the number of spurious drawings, presented as original works by Fragonard, which have appeared on the market, either in the trade or in auction rooms, in London as well as in Paris or Versailles.

The quality of these fakes, especially the first ones, was such that the eminent specialists have been deceived and it is only when the number of such drawings, showing the same characteristics, increased, that doubts and later certainties, were reached as to their inauthenticity.

Now, thanks to Geraldine Norman and *The Times*, the methods of the fakers, whoever they are, have finally been exposed. We must be grateful to her and to your newspaper, as well as to all those who have helped her in her long and

detailed inquiry, and we must thank you for the courage with which you have tackled the whole matter. I wish I would have been in a position to raise the question sooner but, being a dealer, I could have been considered as a party in the dispute. Anyway, only a journalist, and one of great talent as is your *Saleroom* Correspondent, could explain such a difficult matter to the laymen without unnecessary technicalities and art historians' jargon, so that the whole problem should look absolutely clear.

I would wish to stress another point. It is the civic sense of museum directors—in Ottawa and Montreal, for instance—of dealers such as Eugene Victor Thaw, Robert Light or even Mr and Mrs Hignous, or private collectors as Mrs Wrightman. Without their consent to publish as fakes the drawings they had acquired, it would have been impossible to expose the whole system and affair as you have done in your March 8 and 9 issues.

Yours sincerely,
JEAN CALLEUX,
136 Faubourg Saint Honoré,
Paris.
March 9.

The youngest headmaster

From Mr Graham Stainforth

Sir, Among the under-30s who have been appointed to headmasterships, Edward White Benson, first Master of Wellington and subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury, deserves a mention. He was 29 when his college opened in 1859 and his bride was 18. Although very little older than the senior boys she was known as "Mothy Benny" and was reputed to start a practice which was certainly followed by at least one of her successors—she always did the carving at meals.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM STAINFORTH,
The Cottage,
Winterbottom,
Wallingford,
Oxfordshire.
March 14.

From the Rev J. I. Miller

Sir, As far as I know, the distinction to be the youngest headmaster is held by H. James. James was born in about the year 1867. He came headmaster of Trent College in 1891 at the age of 24, and died

in 1937. Oddly enough, both Isaacs and Archbishop Lord Fisher ended their lives as pastors of small parishes.

Yours faithfully,
J. I. MILLER,
Cockfield Rectory,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk.
March 14.

From the Rev Robert E. Dolman
Sir, Henry Mander was appointed Headmaster of Bablake School, Coventry, in 1824 at the age of 18 and held office until his resignation in 1870.

As a pupil of the school himself from 1815 to 1822 he is reported to have said that there were only two other boys on the foundation. By the end of his headmastership there were 70 places in the school.

I expect there are other instances in Victorian schools of early appointment and long tenure.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT E. DOLMAN,
62 Somers Park Avenue,
Milverton, Glos.,
Worcestershire.
March 15.

Curbing football hooliganism

From Mr Dennis C. Lehane
Sir, Millwall Football Club has received considerable criticism following last Saturday's violence among the crowd at the FA Cup tie with Ipswich. An Ipswich MP has called for the club to be permanently closed and an Ipswich businessman has launched a campaign to achieve this. I have yet to hear anyone speak in defence of the club and I would be grateful if you would permit me to put the case for the club through your columns.

I am a season ticket holder at Millwall and have been attending matches there regularly for nearly 20 years. I was at Saturday's match. I was appalled by the violence and saddened by the consequent attacks on the club, many of the latter being in my view both ill-informed and hysterical.

There is a prima facie case for criticising Millwall FC, I would suggest, on three grounds only: it failed to segregate rival fans adequately; it failed to search spectators coming through the turnstiles for offensive weapons, such as bottles, adequately; and it failed to order sufficient police to deal with the potential crowd violence. Each of these are serious criticisms, and together they are damning. But the club itself may have explanations for all or any one of them. I don't know but in due course we will find out. That is not what concerns me here for most of the criticism of the club has been levied on a far wider basis.

Millwall FC are not responsible for the maintenance of law and order either inside or outside its grounds. Nor should they be. That responsibility rests firmly with the police and the courts.

I was appalled by the violence on Saturday. I was not the only one among the crowd who was appalled, but there was a way of dealing with anyone else could stop the violence. It was the job of the police to do that. There were 30 arrests. I saw far more than 30 arrestable offences. Why were more arrests not made? Why were individuals who had clearly committed acts of

violence returned to the terraces by the police? I don't know, but there is not much point asking Millwall FC for the answer, for they don't either.

Those offenders who appeared to be mainly dealt with by the imposition of fines, suspended sentences, and brief jail terms—and by brief I mean two weeks!—One can only wonder at the efficacy of fining those on low incomes in an area where the non-payment of fines is endemic, and the ability of the police to enforce collection regulations because of stretched resources. Perhaps the best comment on the sentencing of the courts was made by the youth who received one month, suspended for two years. He said afterwards that he was surprised by the leniency. No wonder! Less than one month earlier he had been convicted for possession of a dangerous weapon at another football match.

Again, the failure of the courts to impose effective sentences against the offenders is not the fault of Millwall FC. It is my view that exemplary sentences for football hooliganism would go a long way to combating the problem. But for this to be effective, it requires the police to take a more serious view of the offences.

At Millwall on Saturday scores of individuals committed acts of serious violence which could easily have left their victims dead or seriously injured. If the courts should take a strong view of this—which they should—so too must the police. The police have to arrest the offenders before the courts can deal with them.

None of this has any direct connexion with Millwall FC. If the club were closed down, I add some 10,000 other regular and not so regular supporters would suffer. But can anyone seriously claim that the violence of Saturday's violence would never again as a result engage in such activities?

Yours sincerely,
DENNIS C. LEHANE,
86 Melpres Road,
Brockley, SE4.
March 17.

Windscale report findings

From Mr R. A. Kimber
Sir, Mr Justice Parker, in his remarks on nuclear proliferation, argues as follows.

"Non-nuclear weapons states with civil reactor programmes must not be pressured into building their own fuel reprocessing facilities and thus into acquiring weapons capability."

As they have civil reactors these states must have assured fuel supplies and be able to dispose of spent fuel.

These states are as eager as any other to become independent with regard to energy supplies. Therefore these states will not be satisfied with United States promises of supplies of enriched uranium fuel

and of storage facilities for spent fuel. But these same states will be satisfied with British promises to reprocess their fuel and to supply them with uranium and recycled plutonium.

That is to say that states that will not accept dependence on the United States for the provision of nuclear services and materials will accept such dependence on Great Britain.

If this extraordinary logic is correct it can only be because we are more concerned with our balance of payments than with the risks of nuclear proliferation. Yours faithfully,
R. A. KIMBER,
Trinity Hall,
Cambridge.
March 9.

Teaching industrial action

From Mr Humphrey Fisher

Sir, It is a matter for grief that school children, as reported in the press this week, have been asked to participate in "industrial action" such as sit-ins and demonstrations to protest against the almost identical antics of their teachers. But while it is a grievous, it is not at all a surprising matter: some teachers' unions have repeatedly disrupted the normal pattern of school life in recent years, and it seems the children have learnt the lesson. Teachers, or some teachers, have allowed the pursuit of their own material interests to supersede their responsibilities, and what should be their personal loyalties, to those entrusted to their charge. As a direct result we now have, may God help us, teachers striking against pupils, pupils against teachers.

Must the same pattern of block confrontation has been for some time emerging in the universities, although here it is the students who, with occupations and boycotts, have led the way. The Association of University Teachers (the own union) last week breathed forth threats and slaughter again, as it does from time to time, discussing ways in which the legitimate interests of students might be harmed—for example, by refusing to mark exams—in order to twist the Government's arm over pay.

Between the millions of power politics, courageous individuals are ground to powder. Last week we read the tragic history of Mrs Hunt,

a "dinner lady" who cut sandwiches for the children during a strike. Sent to Coventry by her companions, ordinary mums, she changed schools, now she has been sent out of employment altogether by the National Union of Public Employees. I have besides me as I write a copy of the students' magazine of my own college, marked by vindictive personnel abuse of a senior administrator, who had with the utmost devotion given a lifetime of service to the college.

Schools, universities and all other patterns and places of education require relations of trust between individuals. We are steadily replacing these relations with those of mistrust between power blocks.

As a teacher, and AUT and hence also a TUC member, I have not the least doubt where teachers' duties lie. No matter how justified the cause, no grievance justifies the deliberate neglect of professional duty, nor inflicting hardship on innocent third parties. This is a clear, simple rule. All honour to the Professional Association of Teachers, a small union which serves the cause of education and the right to strike. In one of the few encouraging snippets of educational news over the past fortnight, it is excellent to see the PAT membership is steadily growing.

Yours sincerely,
HUMPHREY FISHER,
Reader in African History,
School of Oriental and African Studies,
Mallet Street, WC1.
March 16.

Yesterday's sounds

From Mr B. C. Guy

Sir, Tragic to think that the modern child can never again hear and see the "puffer-train", perhaps particularly the occasional joyous scream in ascending arpeggios as the big wheels slide under the puffing load, followed by the slow, dignified crescendo as the train finally moved off. Dear old "puffer-train".

Yours nostalgically,
B. C. GUY,
Forest Park,
Brockenhurst,
Hampshire.
March 16.

From Mr Noel Johnson

Sir, Bus (and tram) conductors' punches did not go ding, ping, or ching.

They went ker-ling.

I am, Sir, an obedient servant,
NOEL JOHNSON,
218 St Margaret's Road,
St Margaret's-on-Thames,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.
March 16.

From Mr T. Stranack

Sir, I have good news for lovers of traditional sounds. You can still hear the tick of the clock in a Rolls-Royce at any speed.

Yours faithfully,
T. STRANACK,
7 Addison Crescent, W1.
March 15.

hood 20 years ago. We became friends, he played Chopin waltzes for me, and he used to chat with such elegant sweep and dignity that it was not easy to drop a coin into his tray without appearing condescending.

Yours faithfully,
PRUDENCE MURRAY,
21 Avenue Road,
Winchester,
Hampshire.
March 16.

From Mrs David Noden

Sir, Mrs Coggan (March 15) might consider a visit to Wilmslow, Cheshire, where Mr Jeff Cooper still delivers milk by horse and cart—pasteurized alas and hygienically bottled—but you can't have everything.

Yours faithfully,
SHELAGH NODEN,
49 High Street,
Garstang,
Lancashire.
March 16.

From Mr Tony Solway and Mr Mark Eagar

Sir, We think that Mr Harris and Mr Jackson, as well as Mrs Coggan (March 16) have got their priorities wrong. We consider that trains that went "Choo-Choo" and "Whoooo" have far more historical significance.

However, we would like to thank them for bringing to light severe losses to our society.

Yours faithfully,
TONY SOLWAY,
MARK EAGAR,
Milverton College,
Cambridge.
March 16.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Warning of EEC protectionism Japanese fail to reduce surplus

By Michael Hornsby

Wilhelm Haferkamp, the German Minister for External Trade, flew to Tokyo today to deliver a message that unless Japan reduces its 5,000-ton surplus of steel, Germany will be forced to take action to protect its own industry.

Mr. Haferkamp said that the German government was "deeply concerned" by the Japanese surplus and that it was "not prepared to accept it". He said that the German government was "not prepared to accept a situation in which the Japanese surplus of steel is allowed to continue to grow".

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Herr Haferkamp: a stern message for Tokyo

Japanese are being asked to hold their exports to 1976 levels (with some reduction to allow for lower demand forecasts this year), and to refrain from offering their steel at prices more than 3 per cent below those prevailing in the Community.

Pending the conclusion of these agreements, the Community has been levying anti-dumping duties on steel imported from Japan. This has caused the Japanese to complain that the Community is "discriminating" against them.

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Later start for London options trading

By Bryan Appleyard

The Stock Exchange is to announce the opening date for the London Traded Options Market on Tuesday, and it is now clear that it will not be April 4 as originally planned.

That is the date the Amsterdam options market opens, but now the London date looks like being April 26. It also appears that it will be more expensive to deal in options than in equities.

There has been some pressure to open at the same time as Amsterdam, because one of the main sources of custom for the London market in its initial stage is seen as being overseas investors.

If Amsterdam was trading for any length of time as the sole European options market, it is feared London might never be able to recapture some of that business.

The commission rate for dealing in traded options is almost settled, though an announcement has been held up by further debate on the issue. The likely rate is a flat 22.5 per cent on one option contract (100 shares) plus 21 per cent of the total consideration.

UK agrees ships deal with India

By Peter Hill

Britain has finally completed the deal to build six cargo ships for India. They are being financed out of development aid to India and by subsidies from the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund.

The deal has attracted almost as much controversy as the 24-vessel package deal with Poland, particularly since the Indian ships effectively are being given away in order to secure jobs.

Both the Opposition and the General Council of British Shipping have criticized the deal and a worried that similar deals will follow.

Mrs Judith Hart, Minister of State for Overseas Development, has approved a grant of £51m to the Indian Government to enable the purchase of the ships to proceed. Each of the 16,500-ton deadweight ships will be built on the Wear by Sunderland Shipbuilders and will be operated by the Shipping Corporation of India.

But because the Indians could have secured similar ships elsewhere from other countries, the Government has been forced to provide a subsidy in addition to the grant. The size of the intervention fund subsidy was not disclosed but it is understood to be £2.5m-£5m.

Mr Jim Gilliland, chairman and managing director of Sunderland Shipbuilders, said that the deal was a "very satisfactory culmination to more than eighteen months of discussions and hard work by his team."

The ships will be built at the company's Deptford and Pallion yards and will provide work for 3,000 workers over twelve months. All the ships are scheduled for delivery between the end of next year and mid-1980. Mr Gilliland said that the recent agreement on industrial relations negotiated with the labour force had been a major factor in concluding the Indian deal.

Meanwhile, British Shipbuilders is to build the small, privately-owned Scottish company of Ailsa Shipbuilding, at Troon, Ayrshire.

The move to take over Ailsa follows an agreement from the company to the state company last year.

The company believes that it would experience serious difficulties surviving outside the state sector. It has only one vessel in its order book.

Owned by Gilbey Gold Trust, an investment concern, Ailsa has a modern covered building yard which was opened eighteen months ago and cost £850,000.

It is able to build ships of up to 5,000 tons deadweight and it seems likely that British Shipbuilders will allocate to the company the remaining 4,400-ton deadweight bulk carrier for the Polish order to assure continuity of employment.

Shipowners and shipbuilders were urged yesterday to cooperate in a scrap and build policy as a means of bringing some stability into the market.

Mr A. Rijke, chairman of the Association of West European Shipbuilders, told the annual conference of the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners in Eastbourne that world shipyards would need a base load of commercial orders in the years ahead and a scrap and build programme could make a substantial contribution.

BSC raises severance pay offer

By Our Industrial Correspondent

British Steel has offered enhanced severance pay to 1,000 workers at Ebbw Vale, South Wales, in return for the premature closure of steelmaking operations at the plant.

The invitation was extended yesterday by Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman in a speech to trade union leaders in the town. The corporation is clearly optimistic that they will take up the offer in the light of the recent settlements made to steelworkers at Hartlepool and at East Moors, near Cardiff.

At East Moors, the "iron handshake" could be up to £17,500 for some men, with normal redundancy payments made up with funds from the European Social Fund.

Sir Charles told the trade unions yesterday that the divisional management had confirmed the closure of the open hearth furnaces and slabbing mill operations for March next year. Workers would be formally advised of the decision in the next few days.

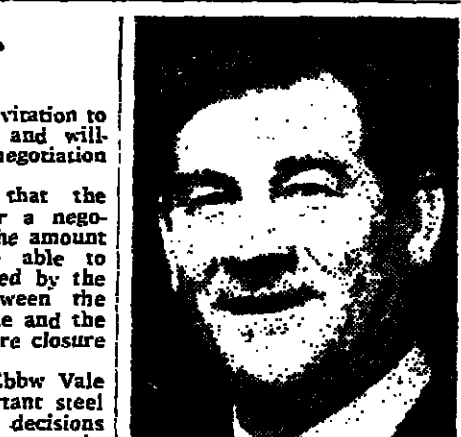
He added, however: "Recently the BSC Steel Committee has decided the early closure of the plants at Hartlepool and East Moors, and I understand that there has been a decision of the trade unions at Ebbw Vale to invite the steel committee to conduct similar negotiations on their behalf."

"If this is the wish of the workforce affected by the closure of the open hearth and slabbing mill, then the management of the Welsh division would welcome the invitation to the steel committee and willingly enter into negotiation with them."

It seems likely that the workers will opt for a negotiated closure since the amount of money they are able to secure will be dictated by the length of time between the scheduled closure date and the time when a premature closure is implemented.

If it goes ahead, Ebbw Vale will remain an important steel processing centre and decisions on further new investments in the processing sector will be taken in the next 12 months.

At present 6,000 workers are employed by BSC at Ebbw Vale on tinplate, galvanizing operations and in the steelmaking sector.



Mr Denys Randolph: timely opportunity.

Wilkinson shareholders accept terms

By Nicholas Hirst

Shareholders in Wilkinson Match, the consumer products group, yesterday agreed overwhelmingly to allow the controversial deal with Allegheny Ludlum Industries, the United States concern, to go ahead.

Allegheny had agreed to sell its True Temper garden tool and golf shaft subsidiary to Wilkinson in return for increasing its existing 29 per cent holding in the British group to 44 per cent.

On a high total poll of 61 per cent of the votes capable of being cast 8.6 million were voted in favour and only 546,000 against.

The deal raised questions of principle and a committee of pension funds instructed the Hill Samuel merchant bank to report on its merits.

This report was favourable and had a significant effect on the final outcome. Neither Allegheny nor Swedish Match voted their shares.

Mr Denys Randolph, chairman of Wilkinson, said yesterday: "This is a timely opportunity to put an end to the uncertainty in the company which has been a major factor in the decline of the company's share price."

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Lucas to cut 200 more Merseyside jobs

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Employment prospects on Merseyside worsened further yesterday when Lucas announced it would cut another 200 jobs at its industrial engineering works at Long Lane, Fazakerley, Liverpool.

The company, which announced the closure of the open hearth furnaces and slabbing mill operations for March next year, said that the decision was a result of a drop in demand from the Ministry of Defence for components including hydraulic equipment for the Army's Chieftain tank.

EEC rules force change in export guarantees

By Our Industrial Correspondent

EEC rules have forced a revision of the United Kingdom Export Credits Guarantee Department's policy. From April 1 ECGD-backed exports will lose support currently provided for interest on loans of two years or more.

Such loans finance only about 1 per cent of total British exports to the EEC. Under present ECGD schemes, however, loans have been made available at fixed rates for all export credits of two years or more. Where the fixed rate fell out of line with market rates the difference was made up by ECGD.

The European Commission has advised ECGD that these arrangements are in conflict with the Treaty of Rome and they have therefore, been ended. In future, however, to give exporters flexibility in dealing with banks, loans for any amount will be able to be made in sterling. Rate support can continue to be given on ships sales.

ECGD financing was switched out of sterling into foreign currencies last year, but because of the success of this policy relaxation is to be made for smaller amounts. From April 1 export contracts with a loan value of less than £5m although expected to be in foreign currency may be in sterling.

New Phillips oil find near Toni field

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Phillips Petroleum has found oil in the North Sea almost midway between its Toni and Thelma discoveries in block 16/17, about 30 miles east of the Occidental group's Piper field.

The group said yesterday it had drilled the well to discover whether the two oilfields were on a single geological structure. Although testing had produced 4,000 barrels of oil a day and it had still not resolved the question. It was possible a third structure had been tapped.

The drilling rig, Western Pacific, is being moved for another appraisal well three-quarters of a mile north-east of the Toni field, which was producing 10,000 barrels a day. Testing of the Thelma field showed 6,100 barrels a day.

Nube resists Barclays' productivity deal

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Barclays Bank's revised conditions for a productivity deal to its 55,000 staff are being resisted by the National Union of Bank Employees. Mr David Dines, Nube official with responsibility for Barclays, said the bank would not accept the money without thinking of the consequences for the future.

The bank's original offer was tied to the possibility of voluntary Saturday morning working. That has now been dropped after stiff opposition from Nube.

Swedish yard may dismiss 600

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Sweden's Kockums Vary shipyard, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kockums, has told union officials it may have to dismiss around 600 workers this year. Mr Nils-Hugo Hallenborg, group president, said yesterday.

Discussions on possible dismissals among office and management staff will take place on Monday, while industry sources said about 300 people in these groups will be affected.

Dollar recovers after early weakness

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The dollar recovered in European trading yesterday after a weak start caused by a fall overnight in Tokyo. At the end of business its effective depreciation was down to 5.41 per cent compared with 5.58 per cent overnight.

Zambia to devalue

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Zambia has devalued the kwacha by 10 per cent with immediate effect in an attempt to prop up the ailing economy. Mr John Mwanakatwe, Finance Minister, told Parliament yesterday.

Arranging for airlifting injured divers from North Sea installations

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Contractors on average \$44 a day for each decompression installation used in their offshore operations. There are about 34 in the North Sea.

Until now there was no way of moving a diver injured or ill while under compression. The IUC system enables the diver to be placed in a special titanium pressure chamber and flown to its North Sea Hyperbaric Centre in Aberdeen.

Mr Dan Walker, IUC's chief diver and international operations manager, said yesterday that it had cost the company \$850,000 to develop the system, excluding the capital costs of shore-based equipment.

The figure of \$44 a day had been based on recouping the capital costs over a five-year period, he explained.

The company had taken a gamble that a new arrangement would be reached after the first year's contract that would enable them to recover their capital expenditure. Three oil groups involved in the North Sea—Shell, British Petroleum and Esso—are interested in taking an equity stake in the system.

During the discussion over who pays for the service the NHS has taken the view that their responsibility for injured divers begins only when they reach the shore. But it will be pointed out that the Government has extended the tax not to cover all workers in the British sector of the North Sea.

Questions posed by staff at the Dounreay nuclear establishment, where there was no record of any large scale escape of LPG or LNG from a storage plant in the United Kingdom.

These types of accident are so rare they have no effect on the statistics for safety in the energy industries.

The report concludes that nuclear, oil and gas fired power stations have a better safety record than coal burning units.

are classified as rare accidents. It says that considerable quantities of gas are moved by rail and a fire and explosion on any one wagon could involve an entire train.

LNG is also moved by road. The possibility of a cargo tank on a gas tanker falling could not be ruled out and this could result in the formation of a large vapour cloud "attended by a massive explosion".

EEC force change in export guarantees

By Our Industrial Correspondent

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Non-use of £750m contingency reserve is major factor in spending shortfall

By Melvyn Westlake

The biggest single factor behind the politically controversial "shortfall" in public spending during the present financial year is that not a penny of the contingency reserve has been used. This item accounted for £750m of the £2,402m under-spending (excluding debt interest) that is now estimated to occur in 1977-78 financial year, ending in a couple of weeks.

Whitehall also invested much less than it intended in capital projects, and lent much less to nationalised industries and private companies than originally planned.

A complete breakdown of the items of under-spending was given to the Commons yesterday by Mr Joel Barnett, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

He was answering a question from Mr Nigel Lawson, Conservative MP for Blaby.

Yesterday's itemised breakdown of the shortfall comes only a week after a Commons Select Committee had heavily criticized the Treasury for failing to see that planned spending targets were met. The committee's report, which was published last week, said that nearly 41 per cent of total expenditure, exclusive of debt interest, or 5 per cent inclusive.

The select committee reserved some of its harshest comments for the Government's disproportionately large planned cuts in capital spending on programmes like hospital and school building.

It is now apparent from Mr Barnett's answer to the question that there has been a further unplanned drop in such spending of £223m. At the same time, expenditure on wages and salaries is shown to have been £15m less than expected, while other current expenditure on goods and services is £231m down on the original target.

One of the few items to show a rise over planned expenditure, however, was subsidies. These were some £223m higher than envisaged.

The fact that none of the contingency reserve has been spent is particularly noteworthy because it is an area where the Government has some discretion. The reserve is intended to meet any unexpected call on public money, or fresh expenditure resulting from policy changes.

Ministers have been insisting that this reserve will be used as an additional control on spending, ensuring all extra unplanned outlays will be met from the contingency reserve. But many of the cuts in the contingency reserve have not been found their way into the contingency reserve, being hoarded instead.

There were several reasons why the contingency reserve was not used. First, the contingency reserve was not used because it was not needed. Second, the contingency reserve was not used because it was not needed. Third, the contingency reserve was not used because it was not needed.

Desmond Quigley

Markets moved

The FT index: 457.1-1.1

THE POUND		
Australia \$	2.75	27.50
Austria Sch	13.76	137.60
Belgium Fr	63.25	632.50
Canada \$	2.21	22.10
Denmark Kr	11.12	111.20
Finland Mk	8.18	81.80
France Fr	9.22	92.20
Germany Dm	4.07	40.70
Greece Dr	70.50	705.00
Hongkong \$	9.10	91.00
Italy L	166.00	1660.00
Japan Yn	465.00	4650.00
Netherlands Gld	4.34	43.40
Norway Kr	10.33	103.30
Portugal Esc	78.00	780.00
S Africa Rd	1.78	17.80
Spain Pes	157.50	1575.00
Sweden Kr	9.14	91.40
Switzerland Fr	3.76	37.60
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.97	19.70
Bank Buys	2.75	27.50
Bank Sells	2.75	27.50
Notes only	2.75	27.50
Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.		

THE POUND		
10p to 75p	10p to 75p	10p to 75p
1p to 10p	1p to 10p	1p to 10p
10p to 100p	10p to 100p	10p to 100p
100p to 1000p	100p to 1000p	100p to 1000p
1000p to 10000p	1000p to 10000p	1000p to 10000p
10000p to 100000p	10000p to 100000p	10000p to 100000p
100000p to 1000000p	100000p to 1000000p	100000p to 1000000p
1000000p to 10000000p	1000000p to 10000000p	10

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Getting the sums wrong in the first place is one way of increasing Post Office profits; another we have discovered is its arbitrary habit of insisting that some people should pay a fairly large deposit months in advance of the installation of a telephone.

Area telephone managers have, it transpires, powers to demand that future customers should pay not only the connection fee of £45 but up to a year's rental in advance (£33). With small businesses the demands may be increased by the addition of five months' estimated use.

The argument is that such a system helps to reduce the Post Office's bad debts. No doubt we are all in favour of anything that reduces the taxpayer's liability to subsidize nationalised industries, but the high-handed way in which the Post Office discriminates between those it deems honest and those it considers potential bad debt risks leaves a great deal to be desired.

There is no way of knowing beforehand whether, as a new telephone subscriber, you will be asked to pay well over the odds—such as the £30 recently quoted to us (and this was three months before the telephone was actually installed). Nor are future customers informed that they can argue against the extra loading.

Some areas, it seems, contain more telephone bill welters to the square mile than others, and there the Post Office takes it upon itself to judge who looks likely to be a bad debt risk and who not.

And what is wrong with cash on delivery? Two months, the Post Office says, is the maximum anyone has to wait to get a telephone installed. With failed appointments and other excuses, two months can easily be stretched to three, as many people will testify.

Investing for Easter

On Monday, Christie's, the auctioneers, appropriately enough, had six Easter eggs in its South Kensington auction. Not that they are any ordinary eggs, but the work of Stuart Devlin, one of Britain's premier goldsmiths and designers.

Devlin's silver gilt "surprise" eggs have proved to be a remarkably good investment in recent years, although only a Philistine would buy simply for the capital appreciation.

Twice a year Devlin produces a limited edition of 250 "surprise" eggs to coincide with Easter and Christmas. The surprise about the eggs is what they contain inside—and it always is something different. The eggs in this Easter's limited edition reveal, when opened, an exquisite hedgehog rooting under a delicate plant.

Devlin began his limited editions in 1968 when an egg cost £50. The price of the latest edition is £126. However, recently an egg from the first edition was sold for £500. Given the intricate craftsmanship that goes into the eggs, the limited editions seem remarkably good value.

Devlin does, of course, produce other more exotic individual eggs, using gold and silver gilt, precious and semi-precious stones and here the prices are impressive. Eggs with silver gilt shells are between £300 and £900, while those based on gold run between £2,500 and £20,000.

Inevitably comparisons are made between Devlin and the legendary Fabergé, a comparison easily understood when you see his latest collection of eggs which have just gone on display at his Clerkenwell showroom.

The exacting craftsmanship and the materials used inevitably make Devlin's work expensive, but that is part of his philosophy. "One of the things I try to do is to provide an opportunity for people who have as their priority the wish to buy really good things. You don't have to be wealthy to be a collector, he argues.

The best collection of his silver gilt eggs, says Devlin, is owned by a secretary who



Silver gilt "surprise" egg in Stuart Devlin's Easter, 1978, limited edition.

forges holidays in exotic parts of the world, which provide only momentary satisfaction, in favour of acquiring eggs. Devlin reckons that her collection is now worth three times what she has so far paid.

Paradoxically, while most of his customers are not that easy. Apart from high labour costs, the business is beset by the fluctuating prices of raw materials. Gold has been consistently rising for the past couple of years. Diamonds and other stones have also been rising, while silver has recently shown a sharp and, for Devlin at least, a worrying jump.

Devlin is producing a luxury product, and he is aware that

it is in competition with other luxury items, such as paintings and holiday homes. Cumulative price increases can have serious effects.

He tells the story of a businessman who had sold out and wanted to reinvest the proceeds. He commissioned Devlin to make three sets of gold goblets. Sometime later he returned asking for a fourth set to be made. When told that the price had trebled he was none too happy and failed to appreciate that the price of gold had a temporary rise in the price. The fact that his original purchases had shown a strong gain was, apparently, neither here nor there.

Devlin is producing a luxury product, and he is aware that

much used in the Devlin workshops both in ornamental pieces and jewelry. However, after sharply rising prices over the last year he is wondering if diamonds may not be getting close to pricing themselves out of the market.

Last year the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers, raised its prices for rough, uncut diamonds by an effective 34 per cent. However, due to strong jewelry demand and to hoarding within the diamond trade, roughs were selling at premiums of upwards of 50 per cent of the CSO prices, which magnified the effect further down the supply chain.

Devlin commented: "I feel that if the diamond price keeps going up I will design diamonds out of my work."

While he makes jewelry for the upper end of the market, his remarks nevertheless have significance for the jewelry trade in general. Devlin points out that many first-time purchasers of diamonds are buying engagement rings. Later, as they get richer and more established, they may buy bigger diamond rings.

However, with many other beautiful precious and semi-precious stones in competition, first-time buyers may be deterred from buying a diamond engagement ring in favour of, say, a sapphire ring. Devlin argues that the result could be that follow-up purchases might again be diverted away from diamonds.

(This would fit in with the De Beers marketing strategy. Having reached near-saturation of the United States market—in 1975 it is estimated that 73 per cent of all brides received new diamond engagement rings—it embarked on a strong campaign for diamond eternity rings.)

Devlin himself makes a speciality of beautiful interlocking engagement and wedding rings. However, you do not change partners and rings all that often and Easter happens to come round every year. Buying an egg this Easter could be both a profitable and pleasurable experience.

Desmond Quigley

Delayed reaction to market recovery

The Times Halifax house price index fell by 1.4 per cent in February, much, it must be conceded, to the surprise of both The Times and the Halifax. The attitude in this paper and in Yorkshire had been to treat with circumspection the Government's fear that house prices were already set on a runaway trend. All the same some increase in the index had been expected.

If your first reaction is "lies, damned lies and statistics" don't let it be your last. The index is probably the most solidly-based of any independent house price survey, using the agreed prices of over 17,000 houses reached in February as its base.

Apart from being the largest individual sample measured during the month it is also comprehensive covering the entire housing spectrum and not merely the well-publicized "gazumped"—dreadful word—house.

It includes a vast number of ordinary purchases of modest properties up and down the country many of which will have been sold privately. Information expected shortly from other building societies is expected to confirm that house prices overall have been moving at a much slower rate than the public have believed. It is almost certain that next month's index will be up but that the increase will not be of a staggering scale.

The disturbing feature that the index does reveal is how easy it is to create an atmosphere of boom. Certainly throughout most of February there were reports that house prices had "taken off"—all through the reality of the situation shows that this was not particularly the experience of the 17,000 borrowers who applied and received approval for a Halifax loan.

The lag in response to the general view that house prices were on the up and up, however, has now arrived with a vengeance—as the evidence from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors shows.

The questionnaire completed by members throughout the country shows that everywhere there is the same problem: many would-be buyers and too few houses for sale. This opposing tug springs from the same source: the fear or hope (depending upon whether one is a buyer or seller) that prices are going to rise rapidly.

The estate agents' evidence is based on vendors' asking prices as well as actual transactions and some admit that, as far as February was concerned, the increased prices had not yet been reflected in actual returns.

But in other areas, particularly in London, sales are

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand (Dec 1977 = 100)

	Index	Average price £	% change over 1 year	% change over 6 months
1975 June	86.0	12,645		
Sept	85.4	12,562		
Dec	85.3	12,533		

1976 March	87.7	12,886		
June	92.1	13,541		
Sept	92.0	13,511		
Dec	91.2	13,413		

1977 Feb	89.1	13,105	3.8	-2.3
March	88.8	13,197	2.3	-2.5
April	92.6	13,617	2.4	1.9
May	92.7	13,630	1.5	0.3
June	95.3	14,011	3.5	3.5
July	96.1	14,122	1.9	5.9
Aug	96.8	14,254	4.3	8.5
Sept	96.9	14,249	5.3	8.0
Oct	98.0	14,402	7.6	5.8
Nov	99.2	14,580	7.5	7.0
Dec	100.0	14,701	9.6	4.8

1978 Jan	100.8	14,824	11.1	5.0
Feb	99.4	14,610	11.5	3.8

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	Feb	Jan	Dec
North	12,637	12,938	12,283
Yorkshire and Humberside	10,854	11,130	10,467
North-west	12,127	12,054	12,333
East Midlands	11,740	12,129	11,989
West Midlands	13,781	13,542	14,346
East Angles	12,508	14,121	13,578
Wales	12,378	12,613	12,755
South-west	14,626	16,019	15,404
South-east	19,067	18,908	18,882
Greater London	19,514	18,882	18,818
Scotland	14,435	14,774	14,818

RICS survey of house prices

Three-month comparison*

	Very much higher (8% or more)	Much higher (about 5%)	Slightly higher (about 2%)	The same	Lower
Pre 1919 terrace	29	28	22	18	3
Inter-war semi	44	42	9	6	0
1939-1959 det'd	55	31	12	3	0
1939-1959 semi	53	37	9	2	0
Post 1960 det'd	54	33	11	2	0
Post 1960 semi	44	37	9	2	0
New houses	57	33	9	2	0

* The figures show percentage of estate agents who find prices have moved in line with the various categories

following hard on the heels of instructions. And apart from the pre-1919 house—which appears less attractive when prospective purchasers feel they can afford more—a much larger proportion of RICS members believe that house prices are now very much higher than they were three months ago.

The question that remains is: was the Government right to ask the building societies to knock £70m a month off their lending targets last week? The evidence seems to be that it

Investor's week

Equities move sideways through lack of interest

In a dull start to the long Easter account equities held firm, more by default than through genuine buying interest. The rally of the previous week was not carried through with any real conviction and bargains once again drifted to around the 5,000 level.

At the close of trading yesterday the FT ordinary share index was 1.9 down on the week at 457.1.

The week saw a clutch of economic figures, index stock BP reporting annual results and a bearish circular on GEC which slashed 15p off the shares at one point, but investors continued to sit on the sidelines, leaving it to the "bed and breakfast" deals to account for much of the business.

Some dealers thought that this trade, being put through before the end of the financial year, was accounting for about 10 per cent of business.

However, as liquidity builds up for the institutional investors, such as insurance companies and pension funds, many are wary of moving out of the equity market.

Gilts saw a better start to the

account. A basic underlying strength to the market helped government stocks to take the trade and money supply figures in their stride and both the long and short "taps" were activated. Estimates are that the Government Broker sold about £500m of stock.

Elsewhere, in light turnover, gilts moved little in the first

four trading days. Confidence waned yesterday and longs were as much as a point off at one stage. Dealers could see no specific reason for the retreat other than general nervousness and sellers taking advantage of a rally.

On Monday retail sales figures much in line with market expectations did nothing for the

stores sector which, after a firm start, ended with small losses across the board. Rolls-Royce Motors, on the other hand, unveiled good profits and a confident chairman's statement, edged sedately upwards, adding 8p to 75p.

Oil was a firm spot, with Attock returning from suspension, Shell finding friends eager for the locked-in dividend and BP wanted in front of its figures. Dixons Photographic fell back as a line of about one million shares went through the market.

Not even an £84m visible surplus on the February trade figures could encourage buyers on Tuesday, though United Biscuits knocked confidence on Wednesday and the FT index went into retreat for the first time in nine trading sessions. Scottish whisky independent

Arthur Bell provided some cheer, however, turning in profits to the top end of market expectations.

On Thursday the City accepted money supply figures, which put annual growth at 14½ per cent, without so much as a blip, not even disappointing figures from BP could prevent the FT index rising on the day.

Alison Mitchell

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's Year's high low	Company	Change	Comment
240p 128p	Booker McConnell	15p to 222p	In front of figures
189p 96p	Mill Marsters	15p to 155p	Profits turnaround
322p 77p	Oil Exploration	14p to 208p	Fears of dry well
			proved false
210p 85p	Smurfit, J.	20p to 192p	Irish stocks wanted
200p 92p	Wolsey Hughes	17p to 180p	Record figures
122p 77p	AAH	7p to 85p	Figures
477p 177p	East Rand Prop	85p to 295p	Chairman's warning
			on costs
282p 163p	GEC	9p to 247p	Brokers' profits
			revision
285p 137p	C. E. Heath	15p to 270p	Weak insurance
			brokers
177p 130p	Utd Biscuits	5p to 142p	Profit taking

Excellent results from Gartmore High Income Trust

Here is the outstanding record of Gartmore High Income Trust as given in the Managers' Report published 15th March 1978.

Income up 11.3%

The income paid for the six months ending 31st January 1978 was £66.05p net per 100 units. This compares with 14p.20p net for the corresponding period last year—a rise in net payments of 11.3%.

£48.35p to original unitholders

Original unitholders have received a total of £48.35p gross per £100 invested since the Fund began in March 1975. Estimated gross yield as at 16th March 1978 was 9.24%, p.a.

24.3% rise in capital value in 6 months

Over the 6 months concerned the offer price of units rose by 24.3%, compared with a rise in the Financial Times Industrial Ordinary Share Index of 1.6%. Since March 1975, the offer price of units has risen by 113.5%, compared to a rise of 65.7% in the Financial Times Index (as at 16th March 1978).

Two ways to invest

You can invest directly in Gartmore High Income Trust or through a single premium bond underwritten by Lloyds Life Assurance Limited.

Full details are available on request—contact Adrian Collins on 01-283 3531, or complete the coupon below.

To: Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., 2 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP. Tel: 01-283 3531.

Please send me:

☐ The latest High Income Trust Managers' Report

☐ Details of the Gartmore range of unit trusts

☐ Details of your single premium bond

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Member of the Unit Trust Association

Round-up. Tax guide • New funds Rescue for Drummond

The Money Which?—Tax Saving Guide is recognized as providing the most lucid and helpful information on all aspects of personal taxation. The 1978 guide included in the March edition of Which? magazine is no exception.

It runs to 160 pages of explanation, specimen form filling, graphs and calculating tables. This time it includes new sections on tax and your home, fringe benefits and investment income. Throughout the guide the main tax changes made since the last edition are clearly marked.

Whether you are in the PAYE system or self-employed, and whatever your family circumstances, you will find it helpful—and almost indispensable if you are unaccustomed to filling in a tax return form or wish to check up on whether your taxman is assessing you correctly.

The guide provides a real service in simplifying some of the more complicated calculations. It has a detailed diagram, for instance, to help you work out whether you will save tax by having your spouse's income taxed separately.

There is a blow by blow account of how to fill in your annual return and the guide deciphers the mysteries of the Inland Revenue's tax coding system.

Which? (including Money Which?) is only available to Consumer Association members (£3.75 a quarter).

Relief is at hand for the 180 members and policyholders of Drummond Assurance which was ordered to stop taking on new business last week. Drummond is to be taken over by fellow friendly society Family Assurance.

It is expected that details will be circulated to policyholders shortly of the proposals to transfer Drummond's business and commitments to Family Assur-

ance. But no new policies will be issued by Drummond under its new management.

The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies stopped the company from taking on new business because management costs were found to be too high and the standing of one of its associates has been called into question. Family Assurance, whose chairman is Mr Robert Morrison, of Planned Savings Life Assurance, has around 2,000 members and assets of £150,000.

Kleinwort Benson is launching a new unit trust specializing in investment trusts. The primary object is to provide a vehicle for the transfer of existing investment trust portfolios held by Kleinwort's private clients into a managed fund.

Although the timing of the launch looks a little odd in view of flagging interest in the investment trust market, it is clearly of advantage for share exchanges, upon which capital gains tax is payable, taking place when the level of share prices are lower. The starting yield on the new fund, which is open to the public, is estimated at a minimum of 5 per cent. The units are 50p each and a minimum subscription of £500 is required.

Of interest to overseas residents as well as to the United Kingdom investor is the launch this week of a new Far East Fund from Schlesinger. The fund will be managed by a Jersey subsidiary but operate as a unit trust dealing weekly at asset value.

Schlesinger favours Japanese shares because of the size of the giant corporate sector there and the prospects for its economy.

The offer price is 100p and the minimum investment is £500.

Investment trust valuations

Total assets less current liabilities £m	Company	Date of valuation	Annual dividend	Net asset value after deducting share charges at annual market value	Investment currency premium (p)	
	Pence except where £ stated (see note d)					
VALUATION MONTHLY						
140.2	Alliance	28.02.78	7.1	259.3	267.5	27.5
76.9	Anglo-American	28.02.78	9.0	112.0	117.5	15.0
115.8	British	28.02.78	4.3	175.1	181.0	36.0
23.9	Capital & Natl	28.02.78	*4.0	147.6	150.5	14.0
9.5	Clearviewhouse	28.02.78	3.5	94.7	94.7	0.2
9.8	Crossroads	28.02.78	3.5	96.2	96.2	13.0
14.3	Dundee and London	28.02.78	2.3	76.0	77.5	4.6
12.1	Edinburgh	28.02.78	6.75	245.3	258.6	17.8
21.2	Great Northern	28.02.78	2.3	110.2	110.3	37.0
10.8	Grange	28.02.78	2.1	91.3	95.4	4.7
33.7	Investors Cap	28.02.78	3.87	122.8	125.7	7.1
21.2	Jardines Investment	28.02.78	2.5	100.4	100.4	1.9
80.0	Invest Trust Corp	28.02.78	5.915	237.0	242.8	29.8
73.1	Investors Cap	28.02.78	1.65	89.2	93.8	12.0
21.2	Lloyds Bank	28.02.78	0.7	158.1	158.1	1.0
14.2	London & Holy	28.02.78	3.2	134.6	136.3	14.6
22.2	London and Mon	28.02.78	5.25	222.4	226.6	23.5
41.9	Lord & Proctor	28.02.78	3.0	124.8	124.8	14.0
97.4	Mercantile	28.02.78	1.25	147.0	152.1	2.0
23.9	North Atlantic	28.02.78	£4.50	£72.70	£78.10	£2.00
46.1	Northern American	28.02.78	2.85	111.5	114.7	13.3
6.5	Save & Prosper	28.02.78	2.56	118.2	118.2	1.0
54.4	Scottish Northern	28.02.78	2.8	116.4	124.6	8.2
22.7	Scottish United	28.02.78	2.0	96.3	102.8	16.5
46.0	Second Alliance	28.02.78	5.05	228.0	244.0	51.0
3.5	Shires	28.02.78	7.56	140.3	140.3	2.0
36.9	Sterling	28.02.78	5.3	202.6	204.4	20.8
24.2	Tinsley	28.02.78	2.25	121.3	124.8	3.5
65.7	United British	28.02.78	3.975	149.2	147.5	14.4
19.1	United States & Gen	28.02.78	5.84	224.7	230.9	24.1
78.0	United States De	28.02.78	3.52	110.2	111.5	1.6
	Conv Ln Sth 1963	28.02.78	£5.00	£116.80	£121.30	£12.70
Bailie Liff & Co						
105.6	Scottish Mortgage	28.02.78	3.0	131.3	133.6	14.1
52.3	Monks	28.02.78	1.4	59.1	59.9	6.0
18.1	Whiteborton	28.02.78	4.6	229.3	241.7	29.4
Barclay Bros & Co Ltd						
31.6	Outruch	03.03.78	1.265	59.1	62.8	4.0
21.5	Tribune	28.02.78	13.0	61.5	61.9	103.4
East of Scotland Investment Managers						
39.9	Aberdeen	28.02.78	4.85	156.8	166.3	13.9
55.8	Arden	28.02.78	†	52.8	56.0	3.8
14.3	Greenspan Japan	28.02.73	†	778.9	778.9	36.4
Elsner House Group						
68.2	Elektra	28.02.78	4.3	129.2	130.0	6.9
234.9	Globe	31.01.78	4.1	137.7	138.0	5.8
	Comp Ltd	28.02.78	2.0	113.3	113.0	1.0
	Comp Ltd	1985/90	51.01.78	526.25	538.40	55.10
33.7	Temple Bar	28.02.78	9.5	221.2	225.6	5.5
	Comp Ltd	1985/87	28.02.78	2.25	115.00	120.00
	Comp Ltd	1987/91	28.02.78	58.00	£35.10	£37.00
16.5	Affiance Group	28.02.78	2.45	118.4	123.6	10.5
20.9	Cardinal	28.02.78	3.8	135.7	140.8	13.0
157.6	Cardinal	1985/87	28.02.78	£2.00	£108.80	£108.80
6.1	F & C Eurotrust	28.02.78	0.85	61.5	61.8	10.6
17.7	Foreign & Colonial	28.02.78	3.77	184.4	197.5	24.7
1.0	James Finlay	28.02.78	†	†	†	†
1.6	James Finlay Investment Management Ltd	28.02.78	7.3458	33.8	33.8	†
Private Cities						
6.1	Affund	28.02.78	7.2	102.1	102.1	4.2
22.5	Capital Sup	28.02.78	0.36	226.8	226.8	1.0
23.8	English & Scottish	28.02.78	*2.45	52.3	50.0	3.1
4.3	Group & Investors	28.02.78	1.1	48.0	47.1	0.9
10.0	London & Lomax	28.02.78	0.5	76.9	80.3	5.8
10.0	London & Lomax	28.02.78	2.1	88.9	86.6	7.8
9.6	London & Lomax	28.02.78	0.5	72.2	69.5	5.2
9.6	London & Lomax	28.02.78	1.375	45.5	50.2	4.2
10.6	Milner Investment	28.02.78	1.85	52.5	52.5	0.3
5.7	New York & Curt	28.02.78	0.4	35.3	35.3	0.0
Bartmore International (Spotified) Ltd						
64.5	Scottish National	28.02.78	3.45	169.2	172.7	16.4
15.6	Glaxo Scottish Bank	28.02.78	2.4	116.9	120.9	13.0
Jardine, Gossell & Co Ltd						
74.7	Gossell & Southern	28.02.78	7.5	356.4	363.5	33.5
133.1	Deventure Corp	28.02.78	3.2	103.1	105.5	5.8
10.0	Glaxo Scottish Bank	28.02.78	1.7	123.7	127.2	17.2
120.2	Govet European	28.02.78	1.8	87.8	82.8	5.2
54.7	Lake View	28.02.78	£4.00	£17.50	£14.40	£1.00
54.7	Stockholders	28.02.78	2.05	113.0	117.8	11.0
OT Management Ltd						
15.2	Berry Trust	28.02.78	0.875	72.1	70.1	3.5
114.8	Comp Ltd 1993	28.02.78	£2.55	£104.50	£104.60	£1.10
	Comp Ltd 1993	28.02.78	£4.50	£30.40	£32.30	£7.30
6.3	Northern Securities	28.02.78	3.0	136.7	142.3	11.0
Henderson Group						
21.4	Biosophos	28.02.78	5.25	213.5	222.8	10.6
23.7	City of Oxford	28.02.78	3.25	110.5	62.1	7.7
6.0	Henderson	28.02.78	1.1	101.2	101.2	1.7
117.3	Went	28.02.78	*2.1	104.2	108.3	11.0
18.7	Electric & General	28.02.78	1.45	86.0	86.0	10.0
15.8	Greenstar	28.02.78	1.45	104.0	104.0	0.4
2.1	Electric National	28.02.78	1.74	82.4	82.4	1.6

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

GEC tumble but BP restore the balance

After an initial markup failed to stir any interest, share prices drifted down close to their overnight levels at the end of the first week of the long Easter weekend.

With an encouraging set of retail prices making little impact on most interest centred on GEC which was sent tumbling by a broker's downward revision of profits. To counter this in the index BP had a strong reaction as dealers had second thoughts over Thursday's figures which in many quarters had been thought to be confusing.

An uncertain mood prevailed in the gilt-edged market where "longs" started steady but by midday had lost around half a point. After a minor rally, on small hands, the market had reversed to their position by the close.

A "lumpy" selling order took the FT index down to 256.1, with the selling over the shares rallied yesterday. Around 100,000 shares went through the market on Wednesday and Thursday when the share price dipped to 25p. But last night they closed at 28p. The seller was reported to be an institution.

At the shorter end, there was even less business and final losses were around three-sixths. Estimates of this week's "up" stock sales at both ends put the figure at around £500m.

The FT index closed 1.1 down at 256.1 leaving it just 1 off over the week. Many dealers were in despair and lost night feeling that the market had "had it" until after Easter. Only then do they see the prospect of any action and even this might prove to be short-lived once the Budget is out of the way.

A visit to GEC by W. Green-

well research partner Mr Ernest Fenton, resulting in a downgrading of their profits forecast, knocked around £75m off the market value of the group.

Greenwell are now looking for £300m for the year to March 31, 1978, against a previous forecast of £340m and last year's £278.2m, and the broker's warning which triggered off the initial selling had a snowballing effect. One jobber admitted that some 500,000 shares passed through his pitch alone.

Ironically, with shares now 14p lower at 247p, Greenwell now see them as a "buy". Elsewhere among the leaders, losses of up to 3p were recorded leaving ICI at 346p, Glaxo at 525p, Beecham at 517p, Dunlop at 80p and Unilever at 482p.

BATS continued to fall yesterday on further consideration of the chairman's profits warning and the ordinary shares closed 7p down at 298p while the A share slipped 10p to 255p.

A more confident chairman's statement from Rank Organisation left the equity unmoved at 248p.

The reassessment of the BP figures made the share the most active counter of the day and had the shares 16p to the

good at 762p. Shell recouped 10p to 510p, while the Phillips 66 gave a lift to ICI Gas, 5p better at 225p. But Oil Exploration, spurred by the same news on Thursday, reacted 6p to 205p as profits were taken.

Northern Foods may, or may not, succeed in its attempt to buy James Shipstone, the Nottingham brewer. What is clear is that Northern will probably have to offer a lot more than 300p a share to do the trick. Shipstone, apart from doing well, is thought to have a stable spare capacity to brew more beer, as well as a big asset in Shipstone's directors could well have an offer of nearer 500p a share in mind. Meanwhile they have turned down Northern flat.

Another oil related stock in good form was Thomson Organisation where a persistent demand boosted the shares 7p to 190p.

Engineers resisted the generally weaker trend with GKN up 1p to 278p and Tube Investments a couple of pence better at 370p in front of figures.

Bullish profits from Hall Engineering helped with a rise of 4p to 95p.

On the takeover front the word was that Comet Radio was

the main buyer which lifted Henry Wigfall the previous evening. Though Comet was not thought to be responsible for yesterday's rise to 385p, Read suggested a rival bidder were. Blaise's Castings put on 4p to 52p to match the revised terms from Allied Insulators.

Active speculative stocks were Rush & Tompkins, up 3p to 103p, and Stewart Plastics where profit-takers lopped 7p off the price at 134p.

In rubbers, Consolidated Plantations, still stirred by talk of a change of domicile, rose 8p to 126p while Castelfield was another firm spot gaining 8p to 178p.

Two other spots supported by takeover hopes were Lee Refrigeration, up 5p to 70p, and Fluidrive which ended with a rise of 5p to 74p.

In shipping P & O survived an adverse mention to end unchanged at 97p but heavy lift specialist James Fisher found support rising 3p to 128p.

In buildings, favourable mentions helped Taylor Woodrow to touch 262p, a rise at one stage of 4p, and Cassin 253p, a couple of pence better. Another building gaining ground was Tarmac, 3p better at 134p. On the mining pitch the chairman's warning of rising costs had Durban Deep slipping 65p to 250p and East Rand Property 65p to 255p. Consoli-

dated Gold Fields halted their recent fall by staying steady at 178p.

In foods Rowntree Mackintosh rose 385p to 385p, Read suggested a rival bidder were. Blaise's Castings put on 4p to 52p to match the revised terms from Allied Insulators.

A slow-down in the rate of growth over the second half had shoe-maker Chas & Co 3p lower to 170p. Milt Martens continued to benefit from Thursday's turn-around, rising another 8p to 155p, but Noble & Lund eased a penny to 18p after figures.

Some think that Ransome Hoffman Pollard managed last year to emulate 1976-77's profits of £5m. But recession and a grim price war between the Japanese and the Swedish in bearings is thought to have meant that profits slipped to around £4.8m. The shares at 56p do not look as if they will move far for the present.

Reports of a strong order book did little for Wearwell at 19p, but the previous day's record figures enabled Waring & Gillow to gain a further penny to 87p. Sharply higher profits had W. Tzack 7p to the good at 45p.

After having GEC slipped back further but BP and other oil moved further ahead. A return to profits did nothing for Lister, down a penny to 42p, but late interest in furniture group Gomme Holdings lifted the shares 4p to 84p. The group is sometimes talked of as a takeover candidate.

Equity turnover on March 16 was £58.01m (14,466 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were BP, GEC, ICI, Shell, BAF, Df, Beecham, GKN, BAT Ind, EM, Grand Metropolitan, British Leyland, Courtaulds and Debenhams.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	per share	pence	1977	total
ICI	21.01(20.53)	0.42(0.41)	2.0(1.9)	1.25(1.1)	19.5	(3.8)
Berry Trust	11.0(10.8)	0.23(0.22)	1.0(0.9)	0.5(0.4)	15.4	3.7(3.6)
Church (F)	15.7(16.8)	2.3(1.9)	24.0(20.3)	2.6(2.4)	15.4	3.7(3.6)
Ball (F)	63.1(66.2)	4.4(3.8)	18.0(14.1)	2.1(1.9)	15.4	4.4(3.9)
Glaxo	6.3(6.3)	0.15(0.1)	6.2(3.3)	0.6(0.5)	15.4	1.6(1.4)
James (F)	9.4(7.2)	0.1(0.1)	6.1(4.8)	1.1(1.0)	15.4	1.1(1.0)
Lister	16.2(14.7)	0.32(0.30)	(—)	NI(—)	15.4	0.1(—)
Noble & Lund	2.0(2.1)	0.2(0.2)	1.8(2.1)	0.3(0.3)	15.4	0.7(0.7)
W. Tzack	2.0(1.8)	0.1(0.1)	1.4(1.4)	1.4(1.4)	15.4	2.1(1.9)
Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.35. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Forecast. b Loss.						

Hall Eng up 30pc with help from stock profits

By Tony May

Even without an improvement in the general level of economic activity in the United Kingdom, the board of Hall Engineering (Halsing) was confident at half time that the group's profits for the full year would be better than those for 1976. This is indeed the case with pre-tax profits for 1977 showing a healthy rise of 30 per cent to £4.4m, an increase of nearly 5 per cent higher at £69.3m.

Although not quite up to the record £4.8m profit made in 1974, the result is good considering the difficult conditions encountered by the construction and civil engineering companies in the course of the year.

After deducting £384,000 of extraordinary charges, against £38,000 in 1976, the group's net profit rose to £4.1m. Earnings a share are up from 14.9p to 18p, while the dividend is raised from 6.14p to 6.7p gross.

The group has made a good start to the current year in spite of an industrial dispute at one company. This was settled after three-to-five week strike and the company is now back to work. Overall, the board is very optimistic about the current year.

The pace of Eurocurrency borrowing by Scandinavian entities is picking up. Yesterday a \$100m seven-year loan for Norsk Hydro was signed, carrying a margin over interbank rates of 1 per cent. The funds, which are being provided by syndicate of 21 banks led by Chase Manhattan Bank as agent, will be for general corporate purposes, particularly for North Sea investment, and will also help finance the Hamble petrochemical complex.

At the same time, Hambro Bank announced that its \$100m floating rate loan for Norway had been well subscribed and had therefore been increased in size to \$125m.

Further, the Industrial Bank of Finland revealed it was raising \$5m European Union of Account through an international issue. The 15-year loan is expected to carry interest at 7 per cent.

The board states that as a result of its reorganization the group is beginning to see improved trading results and the trend appears to be continuing despite static market conditions.

Founder's Brit Vita stake to be kept

The death has occurred of Mr Norman Grimshaw, 56, chairman and founder member of Brit Vita, a polymetric group formed in 1945. Mr Grimshaw held just over 13 per cent of the shares in the group at the time of his death.

A spokesman for the company said Mr Grimshaw had been concerned to see the "ongoing independence" of British Vita and understood there was no immediate prospect of his executors and trustees of his estate selling the shares. Shares of British Vita fell 2p to 79p yesterday.

MY Dart now takes in cycles

By Our Financial Staff

For a comparatively small initial cost, M.Y. Dart, the sports equipment, packaging materials and pyrotechnics group, is adding a range of bicycles to its activities. For about £170,000 M.Y. is buying the assets but not the debts or cash of Dawes Cycles, an established business based at Tysley, Birmingham.

Dawes was one of the two recently-owned bicycle makers in the country. It used to have turnover of about £2m but following a disastrous fire in 1975 its financial position deteriorated and with the downturn in sales in 1977, caused by the economic squeeze and disruption caused by the British Oxygen strike in October, the group took steps to find a fresh financial backer.

The group employed a temporary employment subsidiary in 1977 to inform a meeting of creditors was called. This meeting adjourned until yesterday so that Dawes could keep up its search for a backer. It has now changed its name and been bought up voluntarily. Manufacture will continue at Tysley by an M.Y. Dart subsidiary to be called Dawes Cycles.

Wall Street

New York, March 17.—The New York stock market got some good news today and closed higher. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which had been under a lot of pressure, closed up 5.89 to 788.71.

Some 995 issues advanced and 1,000 declined. Trading was active, with total volume 28,470,000.

Analysts said the morning's market was picked up by the showing of the dollar in overseas foreign exchange trading as well as the modest concerns.

However, the dollar recovered earlier, market participants were greeted with other positive developments emanating from Washington: personal income rose 0.5 per cent in February, substantially above many analysts' estimates.

Silver dips 15 cents

New York, March 17.—COMEX silver futures were sharply on heavy selling yesterday, with prices falling 15 cents to 34.00.

DENISON MINES—INEXCO

Denison has agreed to purchase Inexco's interests in certain uranium-mineral properties for \$158.5m.

THOMAS TILLING

Group has bought from Xerox Corp. of United States share capital of £1m. United Kingdom publishers of school text books, for £1.7m in cash.

VARIABLE BOND

Agricultural Mortgage Corp is issuing a £3m variable rate bond at 100 per cent.

ROOKER MCCONNELL

Group will shortly be agreeing to acquire Rooker for £1.3m cash.

Recent Issues

Company Name Issue Size Date

CH Industrial 100,000 £1.00 1978

CH Industrial 100,000 £1.00 1978

CH Industrial 100,000 £1.00 1978

Morgan Grenfell ends with leap of 92pc

By Our Financial Staff

After tax and transfers to the inner reserves of the banking subsidiaries, profits of Morgan Grenfell Holdings for 1977 leapt 92 per cent to £10.4m. This gives earnings a share of 43.5 compared with just 21.5 a year ago. The board says that having regard to the size of the inner reserves of the group, it has decided to declare a greater proportion of its profits. This is the first year in which profits have been disclosed on the new basis so the profit figure for 1976 has been adjusted from £2.49m to £2.84m to give a fair comparison.

The group is a public but

unlisted company and as its main subsidiary, Morgan Grenfell and some other subsidiaries are banking houses, the group is exempted from the full disclosure requirements of the Companies Act.

The doubling of earnings a share reflects the unusually favourable circumstances which obtained in financial markets during most of the year, as well as the underlying growth in many aspects of the group's business.

Shareholders are to collect a dividend of 5.23p compared with 4.88p for 1976—after adjusting for the one-for-four scrip issue made in May.

Church step towards peak

By Michael Clark

In spite of a fall in the rate of profits and sales growth in the second half, Church & Co, shoe group still managed to push up its profits for 1977 from £1.9m to a record £2.3m. Turnover increased from £16.89m to £19.53m, pushing up margins from 11.6 to 12.7 per cent.

Earnings a share come out at 24.5p, up from 20.5p and the final dividend is 4.0p, making a total of 5.1p compared with 4.5p.

Church, at the quality end

of the shoe market and a substantial exporter, made a small loss on foreign exchange compared with a profit of £180,000. At half-year turnover was 31 per cent up at £9.29m with pre-tax profits leaping 50 per cent to £939,000.

Mr Ian Church, chairman, had earlier hoped to see a reasonable rise, but not as big as the first six months. In the event, profits for the second half were up 130 per cent while those for the second half last time were more than trebled.

Halifax investment trusts

e index old shoulder for Europe?

the poor investment trust which took the EEC to in 1972 and launched a of Eurofunds. As far as it is concerned the EEC is the biggest financial of the decade.

European research funds have been closed back to one man and And the points on in of the Continent as much a mystery to as a mystery to as they ever were.

he trusts shown in the he launched at 100p per 1972. After a brief run in 1972 and good average the European market—like our own—ed to fall.

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MP sets out the case for having annual family policy review

11/7/78			12/7/78		
High	Low		High	Low	
Bid	Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Trust

[illegible]

Crusader Ins. Co. (London)	91-686 4366	218.3	133.3	Growth (1)	..	198.4	..
5 103 0 Crown Brit Inv ..	154.1 ..	183.1	95.9	Equity (5)	..	118.9	..
		208.2	142.7	Personal Pen.(2)	..	192.8	..
Crusader Insurance,							
ing Bldg, Tower Place, EC3	01-626 8031			Target Life Assurance,			

[illegible]

Hearts of Oak Benefit Society,	25.3	100.0	Managed Fnd	25.3	100.0	..
on Rd. London, NW1 .	01-387 5020	25.3	100.0	Equity Fnd	25.3	100.0
L 34.3 Property Bond	35.1	38.1	..	98.4	97.9	Fixed Int Fnd
Still Samuel Life Assurance Ltd	95.2	100.0	Property Fnd	95.2	100.0	..

[illegible]

99.2	Man-Pund	95.0	100.0	..	57.8	45.7	De Great Pac	95.8	80.0	..
100.0	Fixed Int Fd	95.2	100.2	..	Brilliant Trust Management Co Ltd.					
100.0	Secure Cap Fd	95.2	100.2	..	30	Bath St. St Heller, Jersey.		0534	7311	

[illegible]

100.0	Do Accum	117.3	123.5	..	71.05	84.99	Plan Am O'neary	5 ..	65.38	..
100.0	Man Initial	113.7	119.7	..	Coruhill Insurance Co. Guernsey Ltd.					
100.0	Do Accum	114.8	120.9	..	PO Box 157, St Julians CL St Peters, Guernsey					
100.0	Plan Initial	85.1	100.2	..	105.0	128.3	Int Man End 1201	163.0	177.5	..

100.0	Fl Op Accrual	56.8	101.1	..
100.0	Do Accrual	56.8	101.1	..
Legal and General Unit's Joint Professional Ltd.				
100.0	Ex Cash Int'l	95.4	100.5	..
100.0	Do Accrual	95.9	101.0	..
100.0	Ex Pay Int'l	101.9	107.3	..
100.0	Do Accrual	102.5	107.9	..
100.0	Ex Fix Int'l	102.1	108.2	..
First General Unit Managers.				
91	Pembroke Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.	680035		
64.8	45.7	Shk 1st Gen 3	62.6	87.5
163.6	120.3	Do Gift (2)	189.1	160.1
Gardiner Investment Management Ltd.				
Victory Hse, Prospect Hill, Douglas, 10M, 23811				
73.3	15.4	Int'l Gen 3	70.5	29.6

100.0	Do Accum	102.3	107.9	..	Ph Box 86, St Peter Port, Guernsey. 0481 28531
100.0	Ex Prop Init'l	75.4	100.3	..	132.5 110.9 Channel Isle 135.3 144.1 6.00
100.0	On Accum	95.9	101.0	..	Bell Samuel (C) Trust Co Ltd.

Life Insurance Assets		107,547,780	Pro Rata	116.5	52,781
125.0	MetLife	116.8	Raymond, James & Associates	102.5	47,411
125.0	Mutual Growth Fund	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Prudential	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Property	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Managed	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Growth	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Value	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Dividend	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Bond	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Foreign	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Real Estate	116.8	125.0	52,781	
125.0	Do Hedge	116.8	125.0	52,781	
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50 7	Extra Yld Bond	75.4	79.3	..	118.5	94 8 Brit Govt Tel	116.5	129.5	11.10
104 1	GUL Fund	106.9	112.3	..	94.0	62.0 Cap Sec'd Rev	80.3	88.9	6.82
54 6	Int'l Shdis	86.9	91.3	..	97.8	97.4 Marx Fv Pnd	87.8	96.8	6.73

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Property Growth Assurance		2.5% 4 1/2% Convertible		2.5% 4 1/2%	
145	Prudential (FBO IL)	01,660	0068		
146	Prop Growth (29)	173.2		173.2	
147	Do (A)	273.9		273.9	
148	AG Bond (29)	114.5		114.5	
149	Do (A)	706.3		706.3	
150	Abb Val PG (29)	250.8		250.8	
151	Do (A)	250.8		250.8	
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Kidnapping condemned

... Aldo Moro, the President of the Italian Christian Democratic ... life but to freely elect ... cratic institutions. ... expressed the Parliamen ...

University News DSc Sc: Professor F. of th.
Director of Maison des
l'Homme, Paris. and prof. player

MD: Professor F. G. Schaffner, MD
(Tubingen), Professor of Medicine,
Heidelberg University and Director of

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§. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Index for 17.02.78 (base date Jan. 1, 1964 original base date June 1, 1957) —

	Index Last	Dr. Yield %	Earn- ings Previous	Index Nov. 77
The Times Indices				
Total Share Index	184.73	6.88	12.75	184.87
Large 4 Corps.	189.71	6.88	12.15	189.15
Small 4 Corps.	180.71	6.88	13.45	180.56
April Group	220.70	7.02	14.26	220.34
Equities Index	210.14	7.13	13.94	209.92
Other Shares	133.41	6.28	8.18	132.99
Largest Financial Shares				
Financial	214.96	5.95	—	213.13
Large Financial and Industrial	200.98	6.64	—	200.55
Commodity Shares	216.10	5.82	14.06	217.28
Gold Mining Shares	225.87	8.76	17.50	225.78
Industrial Infrastructure Stocks	95.80	8.76	—	94.98
Industrial Preference Stocks	55.85	11.87	—	56.10
2½% War Loan	36%	0.78	—	36%

A record of the Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:

	High	Low
All-time	222.96	110.77
1978	225.12	104.07
1977	218.86	105.79
1976	217.58	106.79
1975	206.95	101.73
1974	206.13	99.24
1973	198.33	101.73

* Fiat Interest Rate

هكذا عني الأصل

April is a wonderful month at The Marina

A wonderfully relaxing holiday even without the summer sun. LUXURY right by the water's edge. Bath, stereo, radio, phone, colour TV in every room. Hair salon, solarium, seafood restaurant and heated pool. Ring (054 884) 1111. Telex 45185 or write to Mr T. J. Anderson, The Marina, 10000 Lakeside, Lakeside, Essex, S.S.21 6JH.

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ALSTON HALL HOTEL
Bathborough Cross,
Holbion, Devon
(075 530 259)

Relax in style and comfort
in this beautiful Country House.
Ideally situated between the
moor and the sea.

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win a and CARE
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holidays Please write or
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Ideal Holiday Hotel, overlo
ing sandy cove. Own sw
ming pool, barroom, te
aduna, games room.

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MULLION, HELSTON,
S. CORNWALL

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Perfect peace, superb food
friendly atmosphere in one
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3-Star and Good Food Rose
Opens 1st March
Fresco is ablaze with daffodils
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GOURMET PAINTING HOLIDAY
The Old Bakehouse, Colyton, Devon. 3-day and weekend courses. Professional and small groups for beginners and advanced painters, combined with the renowned food and wine. The Old Bakehouse. Run by every major good food. Brochure: Tel: Colyton (0297) 82518.

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pds. safe sands, rock pools,
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PAINT IN CORNWALL this s. and summer. Full board, professional tuition, beginners welcome. £40 + VAT p.w. Brocks Mounts, Bay Arts Centre, Trevalta, Faugan Lane, New Penzance.

holidays. April-end of August. 20th onwards. sleepers £250 p.w. Phone Nallur 3867 mornings 9-12 or after 5-8.

PORTH GWARRA. Land's highly exclusive detached cottages in England's last south-west completely unspoilt cove, yards from sea; conservation area. To sleep from 2 to 8. Flights plus all amenities available. Write for photos and details to R. H. Ellis, Seaview Cottages, Porth Gwarran, nr. Porth Causland, Cornwall.

ROSELAND, SOUTH CORNWALL—
BB & ENI. Luxury house in C
village. Superb coastline w/
mins. by car. Brochure from
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Truro or phone Veryan 314.
SALCOMBE.—Modern detaile
house. Sleeps 6. Spring
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1951.

SEATON, DEVON.—Modern busi
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Available now. £50-£60 p.w.
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SIGNORILE, Devon.—Large

5. DEVON. Overlooking Salcombe Estuary. The Vineyard. K. K. Bridge. Small, friendly, pleasant hair, good food and children. Gags, welcome. 6 private baths. Write for brochure on phone 018 250.

SEATOR DEVON. Modern duplex low fully equipped. Beautiful. Available now. £30-£60 p.w. Section 2174.

SENNEN COVE, S. Cornwall. Very comfortable, 4-bedrooms, reliable, beautiful, peaceful, still life.

3. DEVON fishing village. Charming thatched cottage. Children pets welcome, avail April 1 June 10th. 200 yards (sandy) beach. Sleep 5. From p.w. — Warkcough 82110.

SOUTH DEVON. Self-catered flats, secluded, children, d welcomed. Licensed lounge. Brochure. Sandwell Mar Taines 863600.

ST. MAWES. 2 luxury harbourside flats. 3 double bedrooms. A to end June and from September. Tel.: Prazeur 4708.

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edral green. Lovely, self-
tained apartments in charm-
16th century house. Quiet p-
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Lane Wells 73554.

WEST SOMERSET. Comfortable 1-
century cottage offers bed/b-
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beach. 1197 walks. 34 Jun
July, 15 July-5 August, 2-10
tumber. October. 2-10-
P.W.—Fittleworth 333.

